

Parliamentary Portraits ;
OR,
CHARACTERS
OF THE
BRITISH SENATE,
CONTAINING
THE POLITICAL HISTORY,
WITH
Biographical Sketches
OF THE
LEADING MEMBERS *of the LORDS and COMMONS.*
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,
A REVIEW
OF THE
PRESENT ADMINISTRATION,
ALSO A
Reference to the Names, and a Copious Index.
DEDICATED TO THE
Right Hon. HENRY ADDINGTON,
SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS.

By the AUTHOR of the BEAUTIES of
FOX, NORTH, AND BURKE,
First published in 1783.

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Parliamentary Debates
of the
BRITISH PARLIAMENT

THE POLITICAL HISTORY

OF GREAT BRITAIN

ASSEMBLED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

A REVIEW

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

IN THE YEAR 1801

BY JAMES MACKINTOSH

ESQ. OF THE BAR

OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

IN THE CITY OF LONDON

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD

IN THE YEAR 1802

FOR THE AUTHOR, AND SOLD BY T. BELLAMY, No. 10, MARK LANE

LONDON



PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS,

OR

CHARACTERS

OF THE

BRITISH SENATE.

MR. DUNDAS.

THIS gentleman, whose great and splendid rise in the political world may justly be ranked amongst the more extraordinary wonders of the age, was first elected a member of the House of Commons in the year 1774, for Edinburghshire, which he continued to represent till 1782, when he was chosen for Newton, Hants. In 1784, he was returned again for Edinburghshire, and in 1790, for the city of Edinburgh, for which place he at present sits.

Mr. Dundas is descended from a very respectable family in Scotland, and was bred to the study of the law.

His practice at the Scottish bar was equally eminent and extensive, and occasioned by his own merit and abilities, though he might be supposed to derive some consequence from his brother, who held the high situation of lord president of the session.

His talents on his *entrè* into the House of Commons, at which time he was lord advocate of Scotland, was marked with the most promising expectations. He was, at this period, retained as leading counsel on most of the appeals from the courts of Scotland to the English House of Lords, in which line of his professional duty he much attracted the general notice by the display he made of his legal knowledge, and the frequent proofs he afforded of the powers of his elocution.

In his parliamentary conduct he took a very active part in favor of administration, and supported the American war with all the strength of his abilities on every occasion, and in so bold and spirited a manner, as frequently to involve him in the most violent personal altercations with the leaders of opposition.

The enormities of certain oriental characters during their residence in India being thought to call for public investigation, Mr. Dundas with great spirit and firmness stood forward as the accuser of the late Sir Thomas Rumbold, who had been governor of Madras, a circumstance extremely fortunate, and ever to be held in remembrance, as it served to direct his attention to the study of Indian politics, and to afford him an opportunity

nity of displaying his consummate knowledge of the governments, resources, and revenues of the different settlements in the east.

He was made treasurer of the navy the 27th of July, 1782, which he quitted the 2d of April, 1783, and again resumed the 30th of December, 1783, and has been continued in it to the present time. He is also one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, to which he was promoted the 8th of June, 1791; but his services, perhaps, have in no one instance been so importantly exerted, as in his appointment of president of the board of India controul, an establishment that will ever reflect the brightest lustre on Mr. Pitt's administration. He is likewise chancellor of the university of St. Andrew, and was keeper of the signet in Scotland, and lord lieutenant of the county of Middlesex, which latter place he lately resigned to the Marquis of Titchfield.

No one ever possessed a mind more peculiarly fitted for business. He is ever awake and alive to the concerns of his station, and indefatigable in discharging the whole round of official duties. By a persevering adherence to method and order in the various offices over which he presides, he has reduced every thing to a system, and has taught others how to regulate variety without confusion, and to be cool and collected, even amidst a multiplicity of the most important cases.

Soon after he had been honoured with the treasurer-ship of the navy, he discovered many abuses in the

government of seamen's wages, which operated as great hardships on that useful body of men. One was, that when they were turned over from one ship to another, they could not receive the wages due on account of service in the former, till she was paid off, which sometimes did not happen for years after. To remove this hardship he humanely procured an act of Parliament, and in order to prevent the passing of forged instruments, caused all wills and powers of attorney to be signed by the officers of the port, whose signatures are known at the navy office.

He afterwards brought in a bill empowering every seaman to remit six months pay to his wife and family while in the service of government, which has proved a great encouragement and inducement to them for entering into the navy.

His firm and able support has always been given with the happiest effect to Mr. Pitt's administration. He has stood forward to defend the war from its commencement to the present period, and has justified the conduct of the minister in the different measures adopted by him to render it successful, his efforts in which have been frustrated only by expedients on the part of the enemy, as unnatural as they have been unprecedented, and extraordinary.

In his opposition to an immediate peace, which has been pressed so earnestly, indecently, and repeatedly upon the minister, he seems to act perfectly agreeable to

the caution held out by Mr. Fox in the House of Commons, in the year 1787. "I have, said Mr. Fox, been charged with having delivered very free opinions about French perfidy, and, perhaps, I do not think that nation the most faithful in their political contracts of any people in Europe. France is the political and inveterate enemy of Great Britain. No ties of affection, or mutual interest, can possibly eradicate what is so deeply rooted. Her whole conduct to this country, is it not an unwearied and systematic series of measures, either distinguished for their *sinister intrigues*, or *declared hostilities*?

"Her policy of diminishing our power and prosperity arose from her own inordinate ambition of *universal monarchy*, and thus we are her natural enemies. It is from us she fears a diminution of her power. From us alone do the other powers of Europe hope for protection, to maintain that balance of power which can alone preserve their respective liberties from her encroachments! We are, therefore, not her foe from enmity or ambition; we are only her enemy, in her attempts to destroy that system of policy, on which the other states of Europe must depend for their liberties, as well as their existence. When she attempts encroachments on the barriers of European liberties, it is then that Great Britain is her enemy, and no longer. And when *this* is the object of her ambition, *so shall we ever remain*. And when had we not reason to look upon France with this jealousy and circumspection? View the whole tenor of her

" history!

“ history ! While she practised those political intrigues of
 “ ambition, *we were always the only power able* and
 “ ready to check, punish, and counteract her designs.”

In this speech is a very fine and complete vindication, by Mr. Fox himself, of the wise policy of the present administration in general, and of Mr. Dundas's conduct in particular, in endeavouring to preserve the liberties of Europe, and the superiority and freedom of England, from French sinister intrigue, or declared hostility and ambition.

This gentleman has always opposed a reform in the representation of the people in Parliament, as well as in the royal boroughs of Scotland; he particularly distinguished himself in reprobating Mr. Fox's India bill, in effecting a *gradual* abolition of the slave trade, the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, the regency business, the Prince of Wales's establishment, and a number of other great national objects, in the discussion of which, his vast powers have been exercised with equal richness and variety, force of reason and justness of remark.

But above all, on East India affairs, in the extremest embarrassment and utmost complication of which, it has been his peculiar province——

“ *To ride in the whirlwind and direct the storm,*”

his services have been of the most signal and brilliant nature. To the superintending care and vigilant exertions

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tions of the board of India controul, the East India company have not only been rescued from impending destruction, but raised to a pitch of glory hitherto unknown in the annals of oriental greatness. By his Herculean labors, deep researches, and persevering inquiries, the real situation of their affairs have been explored, explained, and understood. His India budgets are the most extraordinary efforts of the human mind! Their wonderful details, their uncommon calculations and statements, their minute accounts of the expenditures and revenues of the different parts of India, with their surprising progress towards improvement, the respective views of the native princes, local resources of the country, and benefits resulting to the East India company, involving such a prodigious mass of financial arrangement, as to appear too much for the most comprehensive mind to embrace in one clear and obvious point of view, Mr. Dundas, to the astonishment of the whole House, treats as a common place matter, and explains with the most surprising clearness, exactness, and facility.

The talents of Mr. Dundas are thought more solid than shining. Not over solicitous about the mere ornaments of speech, he aims only at being understood, and he never fails to obtain his object. Firmness, depth, perspicuity, and candor, appear to be his forte. His eloquence, perhaps, may not captivate the ear, but the knowledge he discovers on all occasions, will ever command a respectful attention, and procure the fullest conviction.

There is no one more impervious to the shafts of opposition. It is impossible for their most violent attacks ever to ruffle his temper, or put him off his guard. He is always cool and collected, and stands the whole train of their artillery with the utmost composure, and an undauntedness that nothing can ever shake or weaken.

He possesses a bold and manly figure; and if a sound judgment, clear understanding, lively fancy, uncommon information, intense application, an enterprising spirit, a laudable confidence, steady zeal, and the most ready talents, are requisites in the character of a statesman, Mr. Dundas must be thought well entitled to that mark of distinction, and to prove a valuable acquisition to any administration.

Besides the official connection and intercourse between the minister and Mr. Dundas, there seems a reciprocal attachment of the most personal and permanent nature, founded on a mutual esteem for true genius, superior qualities, and an equal desire of maintaining the constitution of the country, and promoting its true interest and prosperity.

MARQUIS

employed by his Majesty on a secret mission of the greatest importance to the King of Prussia, which his lordship executed with great address and ability without any charge to the public on the occasion.

MARQUIS OF HERTFORD.

HIS lordship was chosen a member of Parliament for the borough of Oxford in 1768, for which place he continued a representative till the year 1795, when he was called to the Upper House on the death of his father.

In 1774 he was made one of the lords of the treasury, and in 1780 was appointed cofferer of his Majesty's household.

His father, the Marquis of Hertford, was lord chamberlain to the king from the year 1766, to the year 1782. When the Rockingham party came into power, his lordship, who had always been with ministry, resigned that situation, but was re-united in it in 1783, on the appointment of the Duke of Portland to the head of administration, which he continued to hold during the time his Grace continued in power.

Soon after the famous coalition between Mr. Fox and Lord North, his lordship ceased to take that active part in the debates which had hitherto distinguished him, and he became on a sudden a silent and inactive member of the House of Commons, till the appointment of Lord Loughborough in 1794 to the seals, when his lordship stood so high in the confidence of administration, as to be employed

employed by his Majesty on a secret mission of the greatest importance to the King of Prussia, which his lordship executed with great address and ability without any charge to the public on the occasion.

The earldom of Hertford was first created in 1750, and in 1793 the late Earl of Hertford was raised to the dignity of a marquis, and also made Earl of Yarmouth, and Viscount Beauchamp.

The present Marquis of Hertford was born the 12th of February, 1743. On the 4th of February, 1768, his lordship married Alicia Elizabeth, youngest daughter and coheir of Herbert Windsor, late Viscount Windsor of Ireland, who dying in 1772, his lordship married in 1776, Isabella Anne, eldest daughter and heiress of Charles Ingram, late Viscount Irwine.

No one possesses a greater share of feeling and philanthropy, of which he has afforded many great and striking instances. But what has best proved his claim to the warmest tribute of every friend to humanity, and will be most likely to transmit his character to future ages with the most resplendent lustre, is the part his lordship took in the House of Commons in procuring an amendment in the laws of arrest. Bailable writs had heretofore been issued for debts to the amount of forty shillings, by which some thousands were every year dragged to prison by the advice of the lower practitioners of the law. To remedy this his lordship brought in a bill for preventing any individual from being arrested in future for any debt under ten pounds,

pounds, and supported it in so able a manner, as to induce Parliament to pass it into a law, notwithstanding a most violent opposition against it was occasioned by the tribe of pettifogging attornies, the whole body of which united together, and actually procured many petitions from various parts of the kingdom in the hope of defeating his lordship's benevolent endeavours in behalf of the unfortunate. The salutary effects of this excellent bill are well known to the public, and may be easily conjectured from one single fact alone. In the goal of Whitechapel court, an obscure and wretched prison, above *three hundred persons* were every year thrust into it on arrests of forty shillings, but after Lord Beauchamp's bill discontinuing arrests under ten pounds, not above *three or four persons* were put in it in the course of the year.

As a speaker his lordship possesses many requisites. His great political knowledge qualifies him for any subject that can possibly come under consideration, while his retentive memory enables him to deliver himself at all times with great accuracy and precision. His ideas are wonderfully quick and rapid, his arguments strong and forcible, and his action warm and animated. An insurmountable impediment, or hesitation, however, in his speech frequently interrupts him, and forms a no inconsiderable drawback on his character as an orator.

In private life his lordship possesses the most amiable manners. Indeed we know of no one who more happily blends in his character, the true deportment of a nobleman, and the qualities of a gentleman.

of a more independent mind, than this nobleman, who in the year 1768 was returned one of the members for Maidstone. In 1774 he was elected a representative for the county of Kent, and was continued in that honor till the general election in 1790, when he lost his seat by a few votes, the numbers being for Sir Edward Knatchbull, Bart. 3571, Filmer Honeywood, Esq. 2229, and for the Honorable Mr. Marham, 2174.

LORD ROMNEY.

NO one, perhaps, ever sat in the House of Commons with a higher character, or a more independent mind, than this nobleman, who in the year 1768 was returned one of the members for Maidstone. In 1774 he was elected a representative for the county of Kent, and was continued in that honor till the general election in 1790, when he lost his seat by a few votes, the numbers being for Sir Edward Knatchbull, Bart. 3571, Filmer Honeywood, Esq. 2229, and for the Honorable Mr. Marham, 2174.

The good offices of his lordship were industriously employed on Mr. Pitt's coming into power, for the purpose of bringing that great character and Mr. Fox together, in order to reconcile all parties and form a broad-bottomed administration. To this end several general meetings were held at the Saint Alban's tavern of all the country gentlemen, at which his lordship presided, and certainly nothing could be better meant than what he intended; but though all the persuasion he was master of was used by him on the occasion, and no one ever had an address more inviting, or manners more winning, the negotiation could never be put in a train to promise success. It was required on the part of opposition, that ministry should quit their places before they treated with them. This, however, could

could by no means be acceded to, and the object in view of course fell to the ground. on the death of his venerable father Sir Robert His conduct in Parliament has been particularly distinguished by his endeavours to put upon a respectable and useful footing the militia of the kingdom, the subject of which no one ever better understood. With respect to the proposed systems of fortifications his lordship always reprobated them as expensive and unnecessary, and in order to shew what had been the prevailing opinion of the best and wisest statesman on *insular* defence, when the danger of an invasion was most dreaded, he read the following extract of a letter written by Sir Nicholas Throckmorton to secretary Burleigh, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth—"In any wise, Mr. Secretary, bend your force, credit and devise to maintain and increase your navy by all the means you can, for in this time, considering all circumstances, *it is the flower of England's garland.* Animate and cherish as many as you can to serve by sea. Let them neither want good deeds, nor good words. It is your *best*, and best *cheap* defence, and most redoubted of your enemies and doubtful friends. There is not so many perils in it, as there is to depend upon *fortresses*, neither the charges be like."

His lordship took a very considerable part on all the great constitutional questions agitated during the time he sat in the House, and in 1786 brought in a bill for securing the freedom of election, by excluding persons holding places in the navy and ordnance offices from voting as electors.

His

His lordship was called to the Upper House in 1794, on the death of his venerable and much respected father, who was born the 22d of August, 1712. Sir Robert Marham, who had been knighted in 1681, succeeded his father in the baronetage 1703, and by George the First, on June 25, 1716, was created a peer, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Cloudesley Shovell.

His lordship has always been guided in his political opinions by a strict and uniform adherence to the true principles of the constitution. Indeed, we believe no one will doubt his sincerity in declaring, as he has done, *“that he acts from the genuine sentiments of his heart, and that no one can charge him with having held a conduct on any one occasion whatever, that was not direct and sincere.”*

GENERAL

He has always made it a point to come forward in the most conspicuous manner, and with all the energy he is master of, on all the great grounds of opposition, and was particularly pointed out on the late adjournment of the establishment of the office of **GENERAL SMITH.**

THIS gentleman, from a very obscure origin, attained the rank of a brigadier general in the East India company's service, and sits in Parliament as one of the members for Wareham, in Dorsetshire.

He has in his political conduct always acted under the standard of opposition, and shewn a great personal attachment to Mr. Fox. His attacks are generally directed against the *military* operations of the East India company, in the same patriotic manner as Mr. Francis undertakes the correction of their *civil* concerns. From the part he takes in the debates, he may not be improperly stiled, "*comptroller* of the board of India controul," since there are no warlike measures whatever originating in it, that he does not arrange with the most supercilious consciousness of a superior judgment in oriental matters, and a superintending authority that ought, in his own modest opinion, to be implicitly allowed him on all occasions in which he condescends to give his advice.

Indeed few members take more pains to distinguish themselves in their senatorial capacity, though we cannot with justice say of this general what was said of the great Duke of Argyle, that he is qualified by nature alike

"To shake at once the senate and the field."

He

He has always made it a point to come forward in the most conspicuous manner, and with all the energy he is master of, on all the great grounds of opposition, and was particularly pointed on the late adjustment of the establishment of the Prince of Wales, on which occasion, he pledged himself to take measures to recover the arrears due to his Royal Highness on account of the duchy of Cornwall, but whether out of *love* to the Prince, or from whatever other motive, the public will, no doubt, form their own conjecture.

He is also amongst those who contend for a parliamentary reform, and that it is an object the people have at heart. But the people are not composed of the dregs only of the state. It is all the mixed ranks of social order, which constitute that hallowed appellation. When these, or a majority of these, are blended together in an harmonious union of sentiment, it may truly be denominated the public sentiment, or opinion, of the people. But, when we are deafened with the mingled cry of faction and mobocracy only, it is no more the voice of the people, than a revolutionary tribunal is the voice of justice.

As a speaker, though he certainly possesses a considerable share of information, and no little industry, he is both tedious and tiresome, and frequently exhausts the patience of the House by the length of the details into which he injudiciously runs.

MR.

MR. LUSHINGTON.

THIS gentleman is brother to Sir Stephen Lushington, Bart. chairman of the East India company, and one of the members for Helston, and is amongst those, who without the smallest imputation on their character, have acquired an independent fortune in the East Indies, where he was for many years in the civil line.

On his return to England he engaged in commercial pursuits, and is at present a West India merchant of the first respectability and connections.

While it redounds in no little degree to the honor of this gentleman, that his name should never be recorded, or even mentioned, with those *oriental* delinquents, who have stopped at no means of obtaining an extraordinary share of wealth; it is no less to his reputation, that on his return from India, no part of his fortune has been applied for the purpose of corrupting a set of venal and unprincipled voters, in their choice of him as a member of Parliament.

A person of loyal and independent character, being rendered peculiarly necessary to represent the city of London, on the late death of Alderman Sawbridge, Mr Lushington was invited to offer himself as a candidate by

a very numerous and respectable body of the livery of London, over whom the father of the city, the right honorable Alderman Harley, presided as chairman.

The event was such as was naturally to be expected from the very eligible and well-known qualifications of the candidate, and the honorable support he received.

At the time he stood forward on this occasion, he was in no way immediately connected with the corporation. Yet such was the predilection in his favor, on account of his fair fame, political sentiments, and respectable talents, that he was scarcely announced for the honor of a seat in Parliament, before a variety of circumstances combined in securing the success of his election. The Bank, the East India company, and every great and opulent public body, as well as almost all the private persons of property and character in the city, came forward in support of the candidate, who had publicly, and honestly avowed his sentiments to be in favor of *war*.

Alderman Coombe, a gentleman who had for some time distinguished himself as a friend to opposition, immediately offered his services on the death of Mr. Sawbridge, supported by the particular and earnest recommendation of the lord mayor, and the whole body of modern reformers, and explicitly declared himself in favor of *peace*, as a sure and certain means of securing the suffrages of the livery of London.

This,

This, however, was so far from being the case, that though Mr. Coombe had canvassed some days before Mr. Lushington started, and with the greatest confidence of success, at the close of the third day's poll his committee thought proper to discontinue the contest, and to decline troubling his friends any farther on the occasion. Mr. Lushington gained his election, which commenced the 5th of March, 1795, by a majority of 774 votes, the numbers being for that gentleman 2,334, and for Mr. Coombe 1,560, although great numbers yet remained to vote in favor of the successful candidate.

The event of this contest was not more honorable to Mr. Lushington, than flattering to government, since it clearly established, that a very considerable majority of the livery of London were decidedly in favor of war, and in approving the conduct of administration.

Since Mr. Lushington's election into Parliament he has been chosen one of the court of Aldermen, having made a formal declaration on his being a candidate for that mark of distinction, of his readiness to take upon himself any office in which he could be of service to the corporation. He has also, on every occasion, most laudably exerted his best endeavours in relieving the wants of the poor, in conjunction with those associations that have lately done so much honor to the cause of humanity and benevolence.

Of his abilities and consequence in the House of Commons, the experience already had of him warrant

the most promising expectations. During the short period he has sat in it, he has taken a very active part in several matters of great national concern, and proved that he can *act* as well as *talk*.

As a speaker, his talents have been much spoken of and acknowledged at the East India House, and will, no doubt, soon place him amongst the ablest, and most respectable in the British senate.

RICHARD

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, Esq.

THIS gentleman is of a family, which, during the greater part of the present century, has been eminent for genius and learning.

He is the son of Thomas Sheridan, Esq. formerly manager of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, and grandson to Dr. Thomas Sheridan, the celebrated friend of Dean Swift.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Esq. was born at Quilea, near Dublin, about the year 1752, and at the age of six years was brought to England by his father, who placed him at Harrow school, on quitting which he entered himself of the Middle Temple, with a view of being called to the bar.

He at this time chiefly resided at Bath, where he became acquainted with the celebrated Miss Linley, to whom he was married the 13th of April, 1773, having been first obliged to engage in a duel on her account.

His genius being directed to the stage, he produced a comedy in 1775 at Covent Garden Theatre, called the Rivals, and the same season he brought out an entertain-

22 RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN, ESQ.

ment called St. Patrick's Day. Early in the next year the Duenna made its appearance, and Mr. Garrick having resolved to quit the theatre, a treaty was opened between him and Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Linley, and Doctor Ford, who, in 1777, were invested with the powers of the patent.

On the 3d of May following, Mr. Sheridan produced his admirable comedy of *The School for Scandal*, which was afterwards followed by *The Camp*, *The Critic*, and *Robinson Crusoe*.

Turning his attention from the drama to politics, and formed to excell in whatever he might apply his mind to, at the general election in 1780, he procured himself to be returned for the borough of Stafford, which place he at present represents.

He has ever since devoted himself entirely to the study of politics, for which he imbibed an early fondness. He enlisted himself on his outset under the banners of Mr. Fox, to whose cause he has ever since attached himself with the greatest consistency, and all the ardour and devotion of the most inspired zealot.

On his patron forming with Lord North his famous coalition, the audacious profligacy of which, even the ingenuity of Mr. Sheridan could never color or reconcile, he was made under secretary of state in the year 1782.

On

On the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, the same year, Mr. Sheridan, upon the breaking up of his administration, was put out of place, but on the Duke of Portland's assuming the reins of government in 1783, he was appointed, the 10th of April, joint secretary to the treasury with Richard Burke, Esq. brother to Mr. Edmund Burke, which he quitted the 10th of April, 1784.

Since that period, all the vast and lively powers of this gentleman, and no one possesses any more brilliant or ready, all his wit, ingenuity, and invention, have been alternately employed in exposing the measures of administration, in which his abilities and perseverance have been equally conspicuous, and calculated to excite astonishment and admiration.

He is certainly indebted for his introduction into the political world to Mr. Fox, who, won by his extraordinary genius and capacity, took him by the hand, and conducted him to the first step of Parliamentary fame, the summit of which he has so fairly reached. But the esteem and friendship with which he was honored by the Prince of Wales, served to raise his consequence to the highest pinnacle, and must ever be considered as forming one of the brightest pages in his history.

The reputation of Mr. Sheridan as a Parliamentary speaker was neither sudden nor rapid. The more early exercise of his oratorical exertions were in justifying, or rather in apologizing for Mr. Fox's coalition with Lord North, in the defence of his India bill, in opposing Mr

Pitt's entrance into office, and supporting the regency bill on the indisposition of his Majesty.

His expectations on the idea of this *golden dream* were of the most ambitious nature. He was said, in the first instance, to have stipulated for the treasurership of the navy, and the presidentship of the board of India controul. And on the secession of the Duke of Portland, and Lord John Cavendish, to have insisted on the chancellorship of the exchequer, a place of high trust and consideration, not proper, perhaps, to be consigned entirely to wit and genius alone.

Mr. Sheridan had the good sense and resolution to rise by gradual degrees to the *ne plus ultra* of Parliamentary consequence. He determined to lay hold of the feelings of the House before he launched out into the great sea of debate, and the instant he found he had possessed himself of them sufficiently, he felt his force, and soared to heights hitherto scarcely known, and seldom attained by the first characters of the British senate.

The beauties, however, of Mr. Sheridan's eloquence, never were in full foliage till his remarkable speech against Mr. Hastings in the House of Commons, the 7th of February, 1787.

On this occasion he made, perhaps, one of the most able, and certainly the longest speeches ever delivered in Parliament. In the course of it, he took a review of all that part of Mr. Hastings's administration, which related

to

to the province of Oude, and more particularly to the princesses of that country, the stripping of whom of their treasure, and depriving them of the lands assigned them for their dower, was made the principal ground of crimination against that gentleman.

Mr. Sheridan endeavoured to aggravate the guilt, or supposed guilt of Mr. Hastings, by stating, that he had forced the nabob of Oude to be the unnatural instrument of reducing his mother, and the princesses his aunts, to inconceivable distress and wretchedness, nor did he spare Sir Elijah Impey, whom he described as something like an accomplice of Mr. Hastings's in the business. He concluded this extraordinary speech, which took him upwards of six hours in delivering, by moving the House to resolve, that in the charge against Warren Hastings, Esq. for his treatment of the begums, or princesses of Oude, there was matter to support an impeachment of the said Warren Hastings.

Mr. Francis seconded the motion, but the House had been so fascinated by his oratory, and were so exhausted by one continued strain of admiration for such a length of time, that on the close of Mr. Sheridan's speech, the whole House, it being also two o'clock in the morning, were desirous of adjourning, in order to contemplate on what they had heard. And accordingly on the motion of Sir William Dolben the farther consideration of the question was postponed.

In conducting the impeachment afterwards voted against Mr. Hastings, Mr. Sheridan was one of the managers. On this occasion he paid some very pointed and well deserved compliments to Mr. Pitt. "He said, that however they might differ in their general line of politics, there was such an abundance of *candor*, *rectitude*, and *integrity*, in the right honorable gentleman's *heart*, as to spurn all party jars and prejudices, when the cause of humanity, and unprovoked oppression, demanded his voice."

Mr. Sheridan has long been amongst the most strenuous advocates for a parliamentary reform, and has for several years endeavoured to effect a reform in the royal Scotch boroughs, which he began first attempting in 1788. The continuance of the slave trade, and the extension of the excise laws in the case of the tobacco bill, have been particularly opposed by him, as well as the war itself, and all the operations of it, whether by sea or land.

Respecting the French revolution, and the general happiness it was to diffuse amongst the people, Mr. Sheridan has certainly been as unfortunate in his predictions as Mr. Fox. One scene of anarchy has been succeeded by another, and the French are still as far as ever from an efficient government.

Whatever Mr. Sheridan's talents may be, his conduct certainly betrays no inconsiderable share of prejudice against the minister. He has for some years past represented the finances of this country as wholly exhausted, and

and without any farther resources for carrying on the war. That he must know the contrary to be the fact, is as much beyond all doubt, as that he holds the war, in his own private opinion, to be a *just* and *necessary* one on the part of Great Britain.

But what will probably be thought most to tarnish the lustre of his parliamentary fame, and cast a shade over the liberality of his mind, is the conduct he last session observed towards the Prince of Wales, on the subject of his establishment.

Much was expected from the genius of Mr. Sheridan, and his great knowledge of finance. Every one rejoiced when he pledged himself, that by his plan all the debts should be instantly liquidated, without calling on the public for any part of it, and that the Prince's splendor should not, for a single moment, be diminished.

Both Houses were big with expectation, and all the friends of monarchy exulted. But when he opened his budget, instead of some great novel scheme, that all would admire, and all would adopt, nothing but a stale plan was brought forward of a very bold reform, by which the King was to contribute 10,000l. per annum, and his amiable consort 5000l. a year, towards his plan, which was to be perfected by a shabby contribution from various situations under government.

Indeed, in all Mr. Sheridan's speeches, on the subject of the Prince of Wales's derangements, there is a most
extraor-

extraordinary jumble of reforming loyalty, such a strange constitutional inconsistency, such a glaring variance between his policy and his duty, between his inclination and his honor, that we are really quite bewildered, as to the true extent of his meaning, much less of his designs.

On this occasion Mr. Sheridan did not forget to observe, "*that he stood the most unobliged man by the Prince existing*, as he would neither directly nor indirectly "*accept of any favor from him whatever.*" However honorable to mention this, it would have thrown no *dis-honor* on him, had he felt it his interest to have bowed to the princely obligation. For, as favors do not bind men to meanness, so, in like manner, personal independence should never bias them from their duty. Besides, it is extremely irksome for a generous prince, or indeed any man, to receive favors, and at the same time be totally debarred from ever returning them, the commerce of favors being one of the greatest comforts of human existence.

When Mr. Sheridan too remarked, that in the Prince's message, in which he so admirably and so respectfully submitted himself to the guidance of Parliament, he could not learn, "that his Royal Highness expressed the least "*remorse* for what was past, nor any promise of *future* "*reform,*" it was surely neither candid, nor even becoming, in one who professed himself to be the zealous friend of the heir-apparent, and one too that had pretended to be so anxious for his honor, as well as his dignity and splendor.

Nor

Nor could it but be thought rather surprising and extraordinary that this gentleman, as well as others of the opposition, should feel more for the creditors of the heir-apparent, than for themselves, or for their *own* creditors. There was a time, however, when they were not quite so anxious on his account——

“ Then they would *smile* and *stare* upon his debts,

“ And take down th’ *interest* in their *glutinous* maws!

Another strong feature in the parliamentary history of Mr. Sheridan, is the part he took in the prosecutions on the late conspiracies against the state.

With respect to the *certainty* of the conspiracy against the constitution, his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament clearly *proved* it from many unquestionable documents. The kingdom at large too, by perusing those documents, were thoroughly convinced of its reality. The counsel for the persons tried readily admitted, “ that
“ all the facts on which the two Houses of Parliament
“ had grounded their reports, had been fully established
“ by *legal* evidence which had been *uncontradicted*.” And every impartial man acknowledged, that from the reports, and the matter which came forward at the trials, there was the most decisive proof of it, although the *law* did not convict certain individuals.

The verdicts of acquittal made but one impression on the public mind, and that was, in stamping on it the truth of the conspiracy, and the criminal designs of those
acquitted.

acquitted. As to the proceedings of Parliament being extra-judicial, Mr. Sheridan might have seen the idea of Mr. Erskine, and his own, fairly confuted in the address "the honest opinion of mankind in general" is not against Parliament, but with it, in regard to the conspiracy. If even a petty jury could have possibly declared there was none, which, however, they never did, we are surely to place more confidence in the scrutinizing wisdom of Parliament, and the evidence of our own senses, than in any twelve jurymen whatever.

No one can know this better than Mr. Sheridan, or that administration were impelled by a tender regard for the lives of their fellow subjects, to stifle the conspiracy of 1792, and that of 1794, without permitting either to be so far ripe, as unavoidably to deluge the land with blood, in order to prove to opposition, by that sanguinary demonstration, the ocular reality of their existence. Nor will the philanthropy of government fail being applauded by succeeding ages, as much as it has been admired by the present times.

Another strong *trait* in Mr. Sheridan's conduct is his pointed and acrimonious opposition to the present war, and his incessant cry for peace. It must, however, appear clear to every good and dispassionate mind, that it is only the opposition ladder to power, and the jacobin ladder to anarchy. We know the talents of this gentleman, and that he has his admirers. But we must not suffer the glare of a name to dazzle our sight. We must strip the bird of its feathers, and take it fairly by the body.

When

When this is done, it will be plainly seen, that a real peace now is impracticable, and that even a truce, which opposition would call a peace, is both hazardous and uncertain, without admitting ruinous preliminaries; yet, if the Sovereign, and the country, would place any confidence in them, so as to admit them into power, there is no doubt they would make a peace that would disturb, if not convulse and unhinge every thing, so that in a little time, we should have, perhaps, a constitution to seek, colonies to acquire, and a navy and an army to raise. But it is a happy circumstance for Great Britain, as well as for the opposition themselves, that however much their king and their country may admire their abilities, they have not sufficient confidence in their patriotism, their wisdom, or even in their virtues, to risk the dangerous experiment of a trial, that would, in all probability, prove fatal to the constitution, and the prosperity of England, if not ultimately to all civil society itself.

With respect to a parliamentary reform, on the subject of which Mr. Sheridan has made himself so conspicuous in concert with the rest of opposition, it certainly cannot but furnish grounds for the severest animadversion, when we find this continually and pertinaciously aimed at by a body of men, that have, with little exception, no fixed property whatever *in* the soil, or *on* the soil; who have no property in the *funds*, nor any *local* stake in the welfare of the state; whose attachments to the country, whatever they may pretend, are likely to be as fleeting and as unconfined as the *Arab*, or the *Tartar*; whose philanthropy, like French love, while it extends to the whole

whole sex, never condescends to be true and fixed to *any* individual; whose patriotism is so *general*, that it can never be particularized; whose urbanity, as citizens of the world, embraces *all* parts of the globe alike, giving only a momentary preference, like the *locust*, to the spot which they are devouring; whose benevolence is so universal, that it even idolizes the very *enemies* of the soil on which they subsist, and whose charity is so unbounded, that they would cordially unite with the foes of the country that feeds them, and share with them all the property on its surface.

The moment that the populace, possessing no property, are permitted to become reformers, or legislators, there is an end of British freedom. The legislative adults of the empire are the proprietors of its lands, and those of the moveable property on its surface. As for those possessing none, they are but the political minors of the state. While they enjoy an equal right to the protection of the laws, they ought to have none in their framing, until by talent, by interest, by inheritance, or good fortune, they acquire a certain property, and consequently a stable interest in the prosperity of the country.

Mr. Sheridan as an orator stands high on the barometer of public fame. His speeches abound with sense and argument, and he has the happy art of rendering the driest subjects pleasant and entertaining. This he often does even on matters of mere *finance*, much to the wonder and astonishment of Mr. Hufsey, who certainly has not, in the course of twenty years, found out the way of making

making *his* statements and calculations quite so palatable to the House. No one has more point and neatness in his speeches than Mr. Sheridan, whose epigrammatic turns of humour, wit, and satire, equally surprise and delight. He frequently argues the question closely, and more to the purpose than any other person, and with a degree of boldness, and confidence, no ways inferior to the power and extent of his abilities, which every one must allow to be *pure and sterling*.

His person and figure are rather graceful and pleasing than otherwise, his address and manner extremely conciliating and impressive, and his voice and tones, full, clear, and melodious. Though more artful and plaintive than direct and animated, he frequently delivers himself with great spirit and energy, and whatever the subject may be, seldom fails being interesting, and frequently captivating. In short, he can be either pathetic, or violent, as may best suit his purpose, and always in speaking gains every advantage, by knowing the time and manner most calculated to give *effect*.

His personalities against the Minister are often illiberal in the extreme, not to say malignant and rancorous. Nor are his attacks of placemen in general less wanton and unjust. However other men may escape him at particular times, these are a description of persons that never fail meeting with his obloquy and abuse. This has frequently exposed him to the corrections and animadversions of different members, but, perhaps, the impropriety of his conduct in this respect was never more forcibly

or happily pointed out, than in the debate on Mr. Harrison's motion the last session, for appropriating certain emoluments, pensions, and sinecure places, to the service of the public.

Upon this occasion, Mr. Sheridan began his attack on placemen and pensioners in his usual strain, and loaded them with the most ungenerous invective, as if he himself really wished never to be either the one, or the other. Amongst the members who were provoked to pass their strictures on a conduct so unworthy, Mr. Rose stood forward as a generous volunteer in their behalf. "It is," said that gentleman in reply to what Mr. Sheridan "threw out, an appeal to popular prejudice. Tax, placemen, and pensioners, is nothing but a re-echoing of the popular cry. But he professed he did not perceive, why they should be more taxed than the honorable gentleman, Mr. Sheridan, *as manager of his theatre*, or as a man who travelled the country with his puppet show at his back."

Mr. Sheridan felt the wit and poignancy of Mr. Rose's reproof, and was forced to own the triumph of truth and justice over envy and malevolence.

At times too, it is much to be lamented, that Mr. Sheridan's intemperate zeal in what is termed the popular cause, should be suffered to take him off his guard, and to precipitate him into the most unfounded charges against administration, and to the adoption of a series of the most trifling and ridiculous *postulatus*, merely for the purpose

of founding arguments which cannot bear investigation, when, as Mr. Windham justly observes, "all his tragic declamations—all his deep-toned, fine-spun periods, fall at once to ruin, the foundation sinking beneath the slightest touch." Again, he is often so much in the habit of changing his grounds, as to prevent all course of candor and fair reasoning, as the same gentleman remarks, from being any match whatever for the shifting subtilty that he practises.

Mr. Sheridan was lately married to Miss Ogle, daughter to the Dean of Winchester, and is said to have made some new arrangement of his property in Drury Lane Theatre, by which he has realized a very considerable sum, though, to quote his own words——

"Whatever people do, or whatever say,
"It always looks great to have something to pay."

We cannot conclude this account without observing, that in reflecting on the character and conduct of Mr. Sheridan, we find too much in it not to confirm the truth of Doctor Johnson's remark, "that those, who in confidence of superior talents and attainments, disregard the common maxims of life, ought to be reminded, that nothing will supply the want of prudence; and that negligence and irregularity, long continued, will even make knowledge *useless*, wit *ridiculous*, and genius *contemptible*."

ADMIRAL GARDNER.

SIR Allan Gardner was born at Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire, and early embraced a sea life. He is one of the few remaining heroes who were educated under the auspices of Hawke, Boscawen, and Anson, in the war of 1756, has been the associate of Rodney and Howe, and will probably leave a name behind him not inferior to either. He became a lieutenant in 1759, and was advanced to be a master and commander the 12th of March, 1762.

He took post as captain the 19th of May, 1766, in the Preston, being then captain to Admiral Parry. This was a period of peace, in which few opportunities offered for the officers of the navy to distinguish themselves.

On the commencement of the American war, Sir Allan Gardner was employed in the West Indies, and was in most of the actions there. In November 1778, he commanded the Maidstone, and took the Lyon, a French ship of 40 guns, manned with 216 men, off Cape Henry, after an obstinate engagement of several hours, during which he had four men killed, and nine wounded.

In

In the action of the 6th of June, 1779, off Grenada, with Monf. D'Estaing, he fought with great bravery as commander of the *Sultan*, and had sixteen men killed, and thirty-nine wounded.

He remained in the West Indies, and was promoted to the command of the *Duke* of 90 guns, in which he very materially contributed to the glorious victory of the 12th of April, under Lord Rodney. In this engagement Admiral Gardner's ship was the next to the *Formidable*, Lord Rodney's, which cut through and broke the French line, and by that means decided the fortune of the day.

In January 1790, he was appointed a lord of the admiralty, and on the 1st of February, 1793, he was promoted to the rank of an admiral.

The aggression of our inveterate enemy having again called for the assistance of our ablest commanders, Admiral Gardner was, amongst others, selected, and sent to the West Indies, in the beginning of the year 1793; from whence he returned in September following, with a large fleet of merchantmen under his convoy.

On the 1st of June, 1794, a day which will be ever memorable in the annals of Great Britain, Admiral Gardner commanded the *Queen*, of 90 guns, and how effectually he contributed to the glory of it, was fully stated in the dispatches from the commander in chief, Earl Howe.

In this engagement he lost his captain, the brave Hutt, three lieutenants, a midshipman, thirty-six men killed, and sixty-seven wounded. As a mark of the royal approbation his Majesty was pleased to confer on him the title of a baronet of Great Britain.

Sir Allan Gardner married Mrs. Turner, a widow lady, by whom he has a numerous progeny. Two of his sons are in the navy, and already advanced to the rank of post captains.

At the general election in the year 1790, he was elected one of the representatives in Parliament for Plymouth, for which place he at present sits.

Sir Allan Gardner lately quitted his seat at the admiralty board on the resignation of Earl Chatham, whose naval administration he has always ably and fully defended in the House of Commons, in a manner no less honorable to the abilities and exertions of the noble lord, than creditable to that liberality of conduct, which has ever equally distinguished the worthy Admiral both in public and private life.

SIR

SIR PETER BURRELL, BART.

THIS accomplished gentleman presents in his history, a remarkable instance of advancement in life, through the means of personal merit, and the advantages of a moderate fortune, properly directed in the pursuit of happiness.

His father, Sir Peter Burrell, of Beckingham, in Kent, whose baronetage was first created the 12th of July, 1766, sat in the House of Commons as one of the representatives for the borough of Haslemere.

The present Sir Peter Burrell, whose handsome person, graceful address, and affable manners, early introduced him, with no little *eclat*, into the first circles at court, had the good fortune to marry Priscilla Barbara Elizabeth, daughter to Robert, the third duke of Ancafter, who died August 12, 1778. He was succeeded by his son Robert, who expired suddenly July 8, 1779, and on his death, the lady of Sir Peter Burrell, his sister, became Baroness of D'Eresby, and also succeeded to the office of lord great chamberlain of England, which is executed by her husband, Sir Peter Burrell.

In officiating in this high situation a remarkable circumstance has occurred, which never happened to any of his

predecessors, and is, perhaps, never again to be expected, The attendance of the lord great chamberlain is required at all state trials, and it of course became part of his official duty to regulate and conduct the high court of Parliament in Westminster Hall, during the whole of the impeachment of Mr. Hastings. On this occasion Sir Peter encountered the great trouble and fatigue of it with the utmost cheerfulness and perseverance, and conducted himself throughout with a degree of politeness and attention that strongly marked the amiable qualities he so eminently possesses.

In 1780 he was elected a member for Boston in Lincolnshire, which place he has ever since represented in Parliament.

He acted for some time in his political conduct with opposition, but has been amongst the friends of government since the 31st of December, 1793, when lamenting the occasion of separating from those with whom he had been accustomed to act, he said, "*he felt it to be his duty to do* it. He could no longer act with them unless he sacrificed his feelings. He thought the measures pursued by the minister deserving his hearty support, conceiving, as he did, those measures to be well adapted to repell the hostilities declared by France against *all* governments, and to be founded on the real sentiments of the people."

His three sisters have each of them married into noble families. Frances-Julia Burrell, third daughter of the late

late Sir Peter Burrell, was married May 25, 1779, to the present Duke of Northumberland; Isabella Susanna Burrell, the second daughter, was married June 8, 1775, to Lord Lovaine, his Grace's brother, and Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, was married the 5th of April, 1778, to the Duke of Hamilton.

EARL

EARL OF GUILDFORD.

THIS nobleman possesses many qualities of a superior nature, but will probably be more distinguished in history as the son of the late Earl of Guildford, formerly Lord North, who conducted the American war, being first lord of the treasury from the 28th of January, 1770, to the 27th of March 1782.

His lordship's great grandfather succeeded in 1685, as Lord Guilford, and on the 8th of April, 1752, his grandfather was created Earl of Guildford. The present Earl of Guildford was born the 11th of September, 1757, and was married to Miss Hobart the 30th of September, 1785.

He was first elected a member of the House of Commons in 1778 for Haslemere, and in 1784 for Wotton Bassett, and took a very active part in the debates. In 1780 he was appointed secretary or comptroller to the Queen's household, which office he held till the year 1784, when he was succeeded by the Honorable Richard Howard.

Since his lordship came to the peerage by the death of his father, he has sustained one of the first situations on the side of opposition, and rendered himself particularly

larly conspicuous by his frequent and pointed attacks of the measures of government, and especially those pursued against the French.

Indeed no one of the present *disinterested* patriots is louder in the *buc and cry* raised against the war. His lordship, however, last session, let the cat out of the bag, to use a common phrase, by telling the House of Lords, “*that no sacrifices we had to make, would be too great for peace.*” He then modestly hinted, “*that all difficulties of making peace were greatly increased, by the continuance of ministry in office.*” Lord Derby too *disinterestedly* talks of “*a change of men before any serious negotiation can take place.*”

On the practice of admiring the French revolution, the Earl of Warwick took occasion, last session, to animadvert with an equal share of good sense and spirit. “*In speaking of parties, the noble lord observed, that there had often been circumstances in which parties might be honorably formed, and in that view he often admired opposition. But he could not conceive how it was possible for a senator to come into an English House of Parliament, and echo the sentiments of a French demagogue. Parties wishing for nothing but that of indulging their own ambition, by obtaining to themselves power, he thought neither more nor less than a contemptible opposition, and such an opposition he always did, and always should despise.*”

The

The Earl of Guildford with respect to his oratorical powers, may be considered as an ingenious and able speaker. Like the noble lord, to whose honors he has succeeded, and whose tones he much imitates, he has considerable wit and humour. He possesses a strong understanding, a bold delivery, and stands high in the opinion of opposition.

His lordship is high steward of Banbury, captain of Deal Castle, and colonel of the Cinque Port volunteers.

Mr.

MR. WILBERFORCE.

DISTINGUISHED in the noblest causes of humanity, independent in his parliamentary conduct, and actuated alone by the public good, this gentleman has rendered himself the idol of the freeholders of Yorkshire, which county he represents in Parliament.

He may justly be deemed one of the greatest ornaments of mankind. Feeling the most sincere sympathy for the afflictions of humanity, he began at an early age to consider the case of the poor negroes of Africa. Viewing them torn from their dearest relations, their native homes, their social habits, and all their future views of enjoying their cottages and their connections, to experience the sad reverse, of being dragged to a strange land, submitted to the scourge of the task-master, and to pine out their days in a slavery imbibed with incessant chastisement, called forth his benevolence to rescue them from their sufferings.

With that boundless liberality the philosopher feels for all human nature, he felt that a poor negro was never meant, by nature or necessity, to be the tortured slave of his fellow creatures. These were the rights of man in which he evinced his zeal for their defence, by his incessant

cessant and laborious efforts to relieve nations born and yet unborn, from the yoke of servitude, and the scourge of cruelty.

With the most laudable perseverance he searched into the nature and extent of the savage treatment that the devoted Africans endured from an avaricious policy, and a detestable wantonness of brutality. But with the wisdom of a legislator, he directed the inquiries of the humanist. He suffered not his feelings to prevail over a dispassionate inquiry, whether there could be any moral, physical, political, or commercial necessity for such a vile system of abominable oppression. Already he regarded the afflictions of the negro with compassion, he considered the property of the planters with every care due to the possessions of individuals.

Having made every possible research into the subject, he brought forward his ever-memorable motion for the abolition of the slave trade. Never was a motion made in the British Parliament more important to nations than that for the extinction of a trade, unjust in its principles, abominable in its cruelties, and unnecessary for any purposes of commerce.

In his speech he clearly evinced that it was a system not more atrocious in its principle, than inexpedient in its object. So convinced were the House of Commons of the truth of what he stated, that the chief opposition was from two members, Lord Penrhyn and Mr. Gascoigne, who were immediately interested as West India merchants.

Since the period of his bringing forward the subject, the 12th of May, 1789, he has prosecuted his benevolent object with incessant labor and assiduity, and will, we sincerely hope, live to see it fully attained through the medium of the British legislature.

With respect to his talents, he possesses an acuteness and a comprehensiveness of mind, that are most admirably calculated for the inquiries into those grand objects to which he has devoted his time. No one discriminates with more precision, or displays his sentiments with less obscurity. He possesses a considerable knowledge of the local policy of the country, and the real interests of its commerce. In a word, this great and amiable character has every requisite to render him a most valuable legislator, a useful citizen, and a defender of man from the scourge of oppression.

His countenance bears all the traits of simplicity of manners, benevolence of disposition, and an extreme attention to whatever he pursues.

His oratory is peculiar to himself, and also shews every symptom of an acute, inoffensive, and benevolent mind. Without affecting the graces and figures of rhetoric, he charms with the simplicity of his language, and convinces his hearers with the perspicuity of his arguments. No sophistry of logic he ever uses to supply the place of sound reason. No invective of satire, nor compliment of adulation, mark his sentiments. To display simple truth alone is the object of his parliamentary speaking.

His

His delivery is sufficiently audible, without disgusting with rant, or boisterous exertion. Like the even flowing river, undisturbed by opposition, or impelled by the rudeness of winds, his sentiments take their course, and bear conviction to the mind of every hearer.

No one is more independent in his politics, or a truer friend to the constitution. His attachment to the minister has always been of the most steady and personal nature, and his measures have received from him a most able and honorable support. The last session of Parliament he moved the House on the subject of peace, but he, at the same time, said, "his opinion always had been, that with a republican government established at Paris, we could not have such a security for the continuance of peace, as with the old government of France."

Mr. Wilberforce farther observed, "that he retained the opinion which he had delivered on the war itself, but as the House of Commons had entered into a resolution for carrying it on, the question was, not whether we should go on with the war? That was determined in the affirmative, but whether we should have a *vigorous* or *languid* war? And in that view of the subject, he felt himself bound to grant large supplies."

Nor would he be thought, in voting for a peace, to think there did not exist any danger in this country.

This

Right Hon. SYLVESTER DOUGLAS.

VOL. II. RIGHT

him to favor the world with a selection of reports, not judgment, ability, and perseverance, as to have enabled his attention to a subject of such real utility, and which

RIGHT HON. SYLVESTER DOUGLAS.

THIS gentleman was elected a member of Parliament the 17th of February, 1795, for the borough of Fowey, in the room of Viscount Valletort, on his succeeding his father as Earl of Mount Edgcumbe.

Mr. Douglas was regularly trained to the law, and first began to make himself generally known, by his being engaged as a counsel on controverted elections, before a committee of the House of Commons, under Mr. Grenville's bill, in which practice the talents of some of the first characters at the English bar have been successively employed, amongst whom may be recollected the late Mr. Lee, and the present Lord Kenyon, Lord Chief Baron Macdonald, Sir Pepper Arden, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Bearcroft, and Mr. Garrow.

The cases of election, which form a no inconsiderable system of law, are of the greatest use, considering the frequent appeals on controverted returns, and the consequence of their decisions, not only to the parties immediately concerned, but to the public at large. Mr. Douglas is, therefore, entitled to no little praise for having given his attention to a subject of such real utility, and with such judgment, ability, and perseverance, as to have enabled him to favor the world with a selection of reports, not
 I less

less esteemed for the accuracy with which they are given, than the importance of the information they are found to contain.

This gentleman's professional talents have also been conspicuously displayed at the bar of the Lords and Commons, where his services have frequently been successfully retained on matters of great consequence and legal discussion.

On the 7th of February, 1793, he was made a king's counsel, and the appointment of Lord Hobart in 1794 to the government of Madras, occasioning a vacancy in the office of principal secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Mr. Douglas was invited to succeed him, and accordingly took upon himself that station, which he filled with great reputation till the vice-royship was quitted by the Earl of Westmoreland.

Upon the arrangement made on the appointment of Earl Fitzwilliam to the government of Ireland, Mr. Douglas was said to be intended for the office of lord chancellor, a situation for which he is well qualified by his legal knowledge, solid judgment, and great moderation.

Since he returned from Ireland he has been made one of the commissioners for the management of the affairs of the East Indies.

He was married the 27th of September, 1789, to Catherine Anne, daughter to the late Earl of Guildford.

As a speaker he is less distinguished for his eloquence or brilliancy, than his political information and the soundness of his understanding, which will always render him of consequence to any administration.

On the 5th of February, 1793, he was made a king's counsel, and the appointment of Lord Hobart in 1794 to the government of Madras, occasioning a vacancy in the office of principal secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Mr. Douglas was invited to succeed him, and accordingly took upon himself that station, which he filled with great reputation till the vice-royalty was given by the Earl of Westmoreland.

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Since he returned from Ireland he has been made one of the Right Commissioners for the management of the affairs of the East India Company.

RIGHT HON. HENRY ADDINGTON.

THIS distinguished and highly respected character received his education at the University of Cambridge, and was in the earliest habits of intimacy with the present minister.

His father, Doctor Anthony Addington, who died in April 1790, was an eminent physician at Reading. He was of Trinity College, Oxford, where he took up the degrees of M. A. the 13th of May, 1740; B. D. the 5th of February, 1741; and D. M. the 29th of January, 1744. He was admitted of the college of physicians, London, 1756, and amongst other works, in 1759, wrote an Essay on the Scurvy, with the method of making water sweet at sea, and was also the reputed author of a pamphlet, concerning a negotiation between Lord Bute and the Earl of Chatham, with which latter nobleman he was said to live in the most familiar terms.

Mr. Addington, who, Mr. Carew reports "to be rich in classic ore, and regularly bred to the law," was elected one of the representatives in Parliament for the Devises in the year 1784.

His abilities soon pointed him out to the attention and admiration of the House, in which he gave the aid of his

bright and brilliant powers in the defence of government and the constitution, of his warm attachment to which, as well as high and personal regard to the talents and integrity of Mr. Pitt, he was continually in the habit of giving the most honorable and signal proofs.

An opportunity was soon offered the House for shewing the high sense they entertained of his character. On the 5th of June, 1790, Mr. Hatfield, the clerk, informed it, that he had received a letter from the speaker, Mr. Grenville, signifying, that his Majesty had been pleased to appoint him to the office of one of his principal secretaries of state, which rendered his seat vacant, and made it impossible for him any longer to attend his duty in the House.

Accordingly on the Monday following, the Marquis of Graham, in an elevated style of panegyric upon Mr. Addington, moved, that he be desired to take the chair. "It was with infinite pleasure, he said, that he was enabled to propose a gentleman capable of filling the chair with honor to himself, and dignity to the House. He was possessed of every requisite qualification. He had the most shining talents. He had been bred to the law. and had been particularly assiduous in attending to the forms and rules of the House, and from his age and constitution was capable of undergoing the fatigues of the office." The noble marquis was seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, brother to Lord Grosvenor, who said, "Mr. Addington's constitutional knowledge, his temper, his prudence, and politeness, qualifications he possessed in
" an

“ an eminent degree, rendered him a fit object for the
“ chair of the House.”

Amongst other testimonies in favor of Mr. Addington, Mr. Pitt said, “ he knew his talents and character both
“ from a personal acquaintance, and a public acquaint-
“ ance. He would not speak of his honorable friend,
“ however, from the personal acquaintance he had expe-
“ rienced for a long time, though, perhaps, no gentle-
“ man had a more extensive personal acquaintance, nor
“ had enjoyed a fuller opportunity of manifesting his
“ abilities to a larger number of the members of the
“ House. He only desired the House to recollect the
“ public testimony which they had borne to his honor-
“ able friend’s parliamentary conduct. Not to the parti-
“ ality or prejudice of friends, but to the memory and
“ judgment of the House, did he appeal, and in particu-
“ lar to their recollection of the manner in which his ho-
“ norable friend had stood up an advocate for the consti-
“ tutional rights of Parliament.”

Mr. Addington, in return, said, “ it would be the
“ highest pleasure of his life to prove himself the watch-
“ ful guardian of the rights and privileges of that House,
“ and not only to maintain them within its walls, but also
“ to assert them elsewhere.”

Sir Gilbert Elliot was proposed by Mr. Welbore Ellis,
but on a division there appeared for Mr. Addington 215,
for the honorable baronet 142.

On the 26th of November, 1790, his Majesty being seated on the throne in the House of Lords, the new speaker was introduced between the master of the rolls, and the gentleman usher of the black rod, and presented to his sovereign, whom he addressed in a speech of uncommon eloquence. After which his Majesty signified his approbation by the Lord Chancellor in the most flattering terms.

The new speaker conducted himself with such ability, and gave such general satisfaction, that on the 10th of March following, Mr. Frederick Montague, after remarking that he had long considered the emoluments hitherto enjoyed by a speaker of the House of Commons, as exceedingly inadequate to the maintenance of the dignity of such a station, moved, to refer the consideration of it to a committee of the whole House, and on the 15th of the same month, the salary of the speaker, which had been about 3,000*l.* was fixed at a clear 5,000*l.* per annum.

“ There were besides, Mr. Montague said, some emoluments. On the commencement of a new Parliament the equipment money amounted to 1,000*l.* a service of plate of 2,000 ounces, which was about 1,000*l.* more, 100*l.* a year for stationary, and what every gentleman, who had partaken of the hospitality of the speaker’s table, would be glad of, two hogshheads of claret annually. He was aware that the predecessors of the present speaker had generally holden places under the crown. Sir Spencer Compton, a very great character, who had
“ been

“ been speaker, had filled the office of paymaster of the
 “ army, and Mr. Onslow, a name never to be men-
 “ tioned in that House but with reverence, had been
 “ treasurer of the navy. He did not like that the
 “ speaker of the House should fall under the necessity of
 “ looking for the favors of the crown, and therefore he
 “ wished the House itself to make an adequate provision
 “ for him.”

Mr. Montague added of the Speaker, “ that he had
 “ heard his manly address at the commencement of the
 “ session with great pleasure, and that he had witnessed
 “ with great satisfaction, since he had held his high office,
 “ his strict impartiality, his great attention to business
 “ both public and private, and above all, his care and
 “ attention to the forms of the House, and forms he must
 “ be allowed to say, were the very essence of a popular
 “ assembly like the House of Commons. He concluded
 “ by observing, that the general politeness and easy man-
 “ ners of the speaker must necessarily endear him to every
 “ member, and entitle him to be described in the words
 “ of Lord Clarendon, as *a person of flowing civility and*
 “ *affability to all kinds of men.*”

Mr. Marfham seconded Mr. Montague, and said “ that
 “ the Speaker had discharged the duties of his high office
 “ on every occasion, in a manner equally honorable to
 “ himself, and creditable to the House.”

Mr. Burke declared he had acted with so much impar-
 tiality, attention, and diligence, that he had not only
 answered

answered the expectations of his own friends, but so satisfied the House in general, as to attach the good opinion of those who had voted for another speaker to fill the office.

Others were equally lavish of their praise, particularly Mr. Pitt, Mr. Powys, Mr. Wilberforce, and Sir Watkin Lewes, the latter of which gentlemen said, "that if he might be allowed as one of the members for the city of London, and not less acquainted with the sentiments of the public than any other member, to risk an opinion, he should declare, that he believed it would be pleased at seeing the speaker of the House of Commons rendered independent of the crown."

After the very pointed and flattering opinions of so many great and respectable characters, it would be altogether superfluous, if not impertinent, to say, that no one ever possessed the office of speaker, who met the approbation of the Commons in a higher degree. All parties view him with equal esteem. He has on every occasion manifested an ardent attachment to the rights and privileges of the House, and a sincere love for the constitution.

He seems to consider the forms of Parliament as the ancient and respectable bulwarks of the country, and the rights of Parliament, as the rights of the people of Great Britain.

When

When the grant of 5,000l. a year to the Speaker came before the lords for their concurrence, his high character was equally extolled.

The Duke of Norfolk applauded the Commons "for their spirit and justice," and said, "that if ever a speaker of that House deserved to have his dignity supported and maintained with a proper degree of independence, the present right honorable gentleman who filled the chair particularly merited that attention." Lord Cathcart concurred with the noble Duke, and observed, "that no measure ever agitated in that House had given such general satisfaction."

Excepting Mr. Onslow, whose name is never heard but with a filial respect, Mr. Addington is the youngest person ever called to the chair of the House of Commons. No one, however, has ever exceeded him in wisdom, or in the grace and elegance of deportment.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

THIS distinguished nobleman, who is also Viscount Cranbourne, and Baron Cecil of Effington, was born the 1st of September, 1748. He married the 2d of December, 1773, Mary Amelia Hill, second daughter of Wills, marquis of Downshire, born 1751. His lordship's father, who was the sixth Earl of Salisbury, died in September 1780, when he was succeeded in his title by the present Marquis, who was raised to that dignity the 18th of August, 1789.

In 1783 his lordship was appointed to the high office of lord chamberlain of his Majesty's household, which he has ever since enjoyed, so that his lordship has executed the duties of it for a much longer period than any of his predecessors, at least since the reign of his present Majesty.

The office of lord chamberlain is of great trust and importance. His province is to take care of all the officers and servants belonging to the King's chambers, who are sworn in their places by him, excepting those belonging to the King's bed-chambers, who are under the groom of the stole. He has the oversight of the officers of the wardrobe at all his Majesty's houses, and of removing wardrobes, or beds, of tents, revels, music, comedians,

comedians, huntsmen, messengers, of all tradesmen and artizans, and although a layman, he has also the oversight of the King's chaplains, and of all the heralds, physicians, and apothecaries. It is likewise his place to inspect into the charges of coronations, marriages, public entries, cavalcades, funerals, and into all furniture for and in the Parliament House, and rooms of addresses to the King.

In his parliamentary conduct the noble Marquis has ever testified the most noble and unshaken zeal for the true principles of the constitution, both in the Lords and Commons, of which latter House he was first elected a member in 1774, for Bedwin, in Wilts.

Few noblemen have ever stood higher in his Majesty's esteem, as a most pleasing and striking mark of which, on the birth of the marchioness's *first* child, Georgina Charlotta Augusta, born on the 20th of March, 1786, after a marriage of upwards of thirteen years, their Majesties and the Princess Royal were graciously pleased to stand sponsors. Their royal visitors attended in person, and the Queen received the child from Lady Essex.

His lordship is lord lieutenant of the county of Hertford, and colonel of the Hertfordshire militia, high steward of Hertford, a vice-president of St. George's Hospital, and a knight of the most noble order of the garter.

In

In private his lordship possesses the most amiable qualities. The elegant and frequent hospitalities of Lady Salisbury at Hatfield House, as well as her refined taste, and admired accomplishments, in the more splendid circles of polished life, have long been the subject of the most elevated panegyric.

In his parliamentary conduct the noble Marquis has ever retained the most noble and unbiassed zeal for the true principles of the constitution, both in the Lords and Commons, of which latter House he was first elected a member in 1774, for Bedford, in Wilts.

Few noblemen have ever stood higher in his Majesty's esteem, as a most pleasing and fitting mark of which, on the birth of the much-loved Princess Augusta-Georgina, born on the 20th of March, 1766, after a marriage of upwards of thirteen years, their Majesties and the Princess Royal were graciously pleased to stand sponsors. Their royal visitors attended in person, and the Queen received the child from Lady Hesse.

His lordship is lord lieutenant of the county of Hertford, and colonel of the Hertfordshire militia, high steward of Hertford, a vice-president of St George's, and a knight of the most noble order of the

ALDERMAN

ALDERMAN NEWNHAM.

THE father of this gentleman was many years an eminent trader in the grocery line in the city of London.

Mr. Newnham was elected an alderman in the year 1774, was sheriff in 1776, and lord mayor in 1783, which offices he served with equal spirit and ability, and highly to the satisfaction of the public.

In 1780 he was chosen one of the members for the city of London, and in 1784 had the honor of being again returned. The number of liverymen that voted for him on this occasion were 4479. At the general election, however, in 1790, he lost his seat, owing to an over-confidence that he imprudently placed in his fellow-citizens, when he neglected to canvas with that spirit and effect he otherwise would have done, esteeming himself secure in his election. Alderman Sawbridge in consequence of this got the start of him, and polled 3586, while Mr. Newnham had only 2670. He remained some time out of Parliament, but is at present one of the representatives for the borough of Luggershal.

In his parliamentary conduct Mr. Newnham has always been an active and able member. He even spoke with very promising talents the first day he took his seat,
and

and in the year 1787, greatly signalized himself, and obtained no small share of popularity, by the very spirited and feeling, yet judicious and temperate manner, in which he brought under a review of the House, the *deranged* state of the Prince of Wales's affairs, which in consequence of his patriotic and zealous interposition, administration were induced to take it into consideration, when on a message from his Majesty, the debts of his Royal Highness were discharged, and his establishment freed from all pecuniary incumbrances.

His opposition was given in a very full and pointed manner to the shop tax, the abolition of the slave trade, and the tobacco bill.

In 1794 he declared that he was an *alarmist*, and that he had been so at the commencement of the French contest. He was, he said, still one, and that the war, in its *origin*, had appeared to him, to be, if not an *unavoidable*, indispenlably a *necessary* one, and, therefore, he was an *alarmist*. With this impression of the war itself, and being apprehensive, that great inconveniences must arise to this country from the success of France, under the present system of its rulers, he was determined to support the minister, and he could no longer act with his former friends on the present crisis.

The last session in opposition to a petition procured at a common hall of the city of London to the House for a peace, Mr. Newnham took occasion to observe, that if the opinions of the livery were fairly taken, they would

would be for a *continuance* of the war, until such a peace could be brought about *as might be permanent*. For his own part, he should prefer any war to peace with France, while it possessed its present territory, because if we agreed with France for peace in its present possessions, we should sign the death-warrant of this country.

This gentleman possesses great good sense, a lively fancy, and much acuteness, a very considerable knowledge of the commercial and political interests of Great Britain, is a ready and spirited speaker, and has those requisites that will always render him of consequence in the British senate.

Although he began the legal science at a far more advanced period of life than is general with other professors, such was the ardor of his pursuit, and his talent for improvement, that he soon acquired his possession of power and knowledge in his new vocation, which procured him extraordinary celebrity; he has since acquired

Having thus changed his profession for one more congenial with his temper and disposition, it is reported that as an age approaching maturity of manhood, his law studies were not a little interrupted by the depleting em-
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HONORABLE THOMAS ERSKINE.

THIS celebrated lawyer and orator is brother to the Earl of Bute, a peer of Scotland, and early in life commenced the naval profession, in which he continued till he obtained the rank of a lieutenant. Finding himself to possess talents that might be more profitably exerted for his own emolument and advancement, and more usefully for his fellow citizens, he abandoned the sea service, and entered himself a student of the law.

Although he began the legal science at a far more advanced period of life than is general with other professors, such was the ardor of his pursuit, and his talent for improvement, that he soon evinced his possession of powers and knowledge in his new avocation, which promised the extraordinary celebrity he has since acquired.

Having thus changed his profession for one more congenial with his temper and disposition, it is reported, that at an age approaching maturity of manhood, his law studies were not a little interrupted by the depressing embarrassments of wanting a sufficient supply of pecuniary accommodation. To remove these difficulties, without hurting his mind, without applying to his friends or relations for assistance, he most laudably had recourse to uncommon exertions of literary industry.

During the interval of keeping Commons, he studied under the present Mr. Justice Buller, who was then a great special pleader, and in considerable practice at the bar. In this office his attention to law was unremitted. He also adopted a course of extensive reading, by which he has acquired an inexhaustible fund of classical and fundamental knowledge. But his chief and darling object was the perfecting himself in those elegancies of oratory, which were only wanting to complete his studies. To try as well as to exercise his powers of elocution, he constantly frequented the debating society at Coachmakers Hall. Here, like the first efforts of an eagle's pinion, were the plumes of his eloquence first assayed. Here he gave that promise of innate vigor, which has since soared so high.

His first efforts in the courts of Westminster were in the year 1776, in defence of a Captain Baillie, charged with a libel by the Earl of Sandwich, when first lord of the admiralty, and one of the governors of Greenwich Hospital. His success on this occasion had such an immediate effect on his hearers, that his celebrity was from that moment established.

Soon after, the memorable trial of Admiral Keppel being at Portsmouth, Mr. Erskine was retained as junior counsel, in favor of the Admiral, from whom he received a thousand guineas for his strenuous, brilliant, and successful exertions.

These distinguished successes acquired him a most extraordinary extent of practice. Being now firmly established in the most respectable line of his profession, his exertions were indefatigable in his study of legal knowledge, so as to give the happiest effects to his bold, persuasive, and impassioned diction.

Having now had four years unprecedented practice, for the short time he was called to the bar, he was engaged by Lord George Gordon, as his counsel, and defender of his conduct in the riots of the year 1780. The universal opinion entertained of his extraordinary powers was now confirmed beyond the designs of envy to subvert, or caprice to change. Every person unfortunately involved in law, endeavoured to retain Mr. Erskine as a counsel. And since the demise of Lord Ashburton, late Mr. Dunning, he has been the successor of his fame and his practice.

Although distinguished eloquence is not the general fame of our speakers at the bar, yet Mr. Erskine is an addition to the few exceptions which have been found to this deficiency of legal oratory, in the characters of Mansfield, Ashburton, Yorke, and Loughborough. He may justly vie with the most eminent of the French and Scotch bars, where they are deservedly famed for their forensic abilities. Unlike the generality of our best pleaders, his share of classical acquisition is extensive, and his knowledge just and comprehensive. These aiding his acute discernment, animated feeling, and elevated sentiments, have

have contributed to render him the most able and persuasive of orators.

Brilliant in fancy, comprehensive in observance, richly stored in memory, susceptible of the more dignified as well as the most pathetic of feelings, his eloquence according to the occasion, alarms, confounds, convinces, soothes, persuades, and terrifies with a power irresistibly impelling the mind of his auditors to adopt his sentiments. All the discrimination of logic and adornments of rhetoric he has united with such a happy effect as to cause his mode of reasoning, and his peculiar beauty of style, to appear more the spontaneous effects of nature than of art.

Many reasons, however, may be assigned as operating conjointly to prevent Mr. Erskine from displaying his abilities with that effect in Parliament, as he does in a court of justice. In the law, his mind is immediately engaged, his feelings interested, and his views in life concentrated. These at once stimulate and confine his efforts to the bar. In politics he has neither of these incentives to exertion. As an advocate he is confident of having no competitor whom he is afraid of surpassing him. But in the senate, he knows there are many, who, nurtured in politics, and established on the height of senatorial fame, must have advantages which he can never hope to possess.

Yet, although he speaks but seldom in the House, what he delivers has all those *traits* of elocution which characterize his pleadings.

He was first elected to Parliament in 1783 for Portsmouth, which place he at present represents.

In 1783 he was appointed attorney-general to the Prince of Wales, which situation he quitted in 1795 in favor of Mr. Anstruther.

There has been no subject, perhaps, on which Mr. Erskine's parliamentary talents have been more conspicuously displayed, than that brought forward in the House of Commons, on the dissolution of the last Parliament, for determining, whether the trial of Mr. Hastings ended with it. On this occasion, he contended, that the dissolution operated as an abatement to the impeachment, in direct contradiction to the most eminent characters at the bar, and supported his arguments with so much zeal and animation, as to be several times overcome, and exhausted, by the extraordinary exertions of his oratorical powers.

But that part of his political conduct which will be most likely to transmit his name to posterity, will be found in his defence of the persons lately tried at the Old Bailey for high treason. A more novel and remarkable duty never fell to the lot of any professional man, nor was a more extraordinary discharge of professional duty ever remembered. Amidst a vast flow of declamatory eloquence, sophisticated elucidation, forced comment, strained and histrionic appeals to the humane feelings of English juries, he interlarded his speeches with a number of indiscreet observations, and egotic opinions, that were totally irrelevant, improper, and presumptuous. Amongst other
bold

bold and turbulent sentiments he even went so far as to affirm, "that there must be a *reform* to prevent a *revolution*," a dogmatical *ipse dixit*, not only quite foreign to the cause, but surely altogether unbecoming in a member of an English Parliament, who took an opportunity of obtruding his innovating political axioms in a court of justice, merely because he was in possession of the ear of his audience. Mr. Erskine too on the late trials not only proved himself a good pleader, but aimed at being blessed with the gift of *second sight*. He predicted that the sentences of the Scotch judges would be all annulled,

Although Mr. Erskine has a very fertile imagination, and a most rapid flow of impressive language, he appears not to be very conversant in the knowledge of the law, or the precedents of Parliament. His declaration, "that the Commons who should have been the *protector* had become the *accuser*," was highly absurd. Setting aside the *secret committees* that were established for investigating the popish plot in 1679—for examining the papers respecting the peace of Utrecht in 1715—for scrutinizing into the South Sea affair in 1721—for unfolding Laver's conspiracy in 1722, the Commons cannot, according to the opinion of Blackstone, impeach any Commoner before the House of Peers, for any capital offence, but only for high misdemeanors. The House of Commons in investigating the late treasonable correspondence that was laid before it by command of his Majesty, and in stamping the certainty of the conspiracy, from their examination of the papers, "with the strength and authority of Parliament," did no more than their duty. They

shewed that they could not be the true protectors of the rights and liberties of the people, without at the same time accusing the authors and abettors of such correspondence, in order that they might undergo a fair trial before a jury of their equals. As to its being a new case, for the Commons to scrutinize a great plot or conspiracy against the state, the direct contrary is the fact. They have always exercised this inquisitorial right. And in no similar instance has Parliament ever proceeded with an equal degree of moderation. The like may also be said of the mild conduct of administration throughout the whole of this important transaction.

In being counsel for Mr. Paine he certainly pleaded the cause of a gross and violent anarchist, who never shewed one single ray of virtue, either public or private. Indeed the generality of our modern reformers are men of the most immoral characters, and devoid of all true virtue. But in considering Mr. Erskine's services in this point of view, we are apt to think they have been exercised merely in his professional line, and that he has uttered at the bar of the Old Bailey, what he would never have promulgated in the House of Commons.

He has always been considered as an advocate for a parliamentary reform, though never in so marked or pointed a manner, as since the Prince of Wales, acting with a firm and indispensable prudence, thought proper to relinquish the services of a gentleman, however splendid his talents, whose pretended zeal, or real frenzy in

the cause of reform, he thought incompatible with his duty as his attorney-general.

Respecting his conduct on the late increase of the Prince of Wales's establishment, much may be said to attach to it not very highly to his honor or his feelings. Why did not Mr. Erskine, or Mr. Piggot, while in the Prince's service, advise his Royal Highness to claim the revenue of the duchy of Cornwall? Indeed the whole plan of opposition in this business was evidently to degrade the Prince, and by their croaking about the duchy of Cornwall, to set the son at variance with the sovereign,

That Mr. Erskine is, in his present political conduct, acting immediately repugnant to his opinion delivered in the House of Commons, is to be clearly proved on a review of his parliamentary history, in which we find him on the 16th of February, 1784, lay down his sentiments on its constitutional rights in the following words:

“ Are the *people* in every instance either *capable or entitled* to judge of public affairs? In matters of great and extensive concern, and of intricate speculation, they certainly are not. What is the House of Commons but in these instances to *judge* for them? It is, however, *the artifice of some men, and of particular parties, to blind and prejudice the public.*”

LORD

LORD THURLOW.

THIS great and highly distinguished luminary of the law was born in 1735, and is the eldest son of the Rev. Thomas Thurlow, who held the living of Ashfield in Norfolk. At a proper age he was sent to the University of Cambridge. He was afterwards entered a student of the Inner Temple, and, after practising at the bar with great reputation, was in 1762 appointed a king's counsel.

On the resignation of Mr. Dunning in 1770, he succeeded that gentleman, under the patronage of the house of Bedford, as solicitor-general, and early in the ensuing year he succeeded Sir William De Grey, appointed chief justice of the Common Pleas, in the office of attorney-general.

He was first returned for Tamworth, which place he represented in the House of Commons in 1766, and in 1778 he was created a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Lord Thurlow, and raised to the high office of lord chancellor, which he resigned April 9, 1783. From that period the seals were held in commission by Lord Loughborough, Sir William Henry Ashurst, and Sir Beaumont Hotham till the 13th of December following, when his lordship resumed the office of lord chancellor, and

and continued in it till the year 1794, when he was succeeded by Lord Loughborough.

In the review of his lordship's parliamentary conduct, it appears to have been equally distinguished in the Lords and Commons by his able, active, and uniform support of government. No one who ever held the office of attorney-general, ever possessed so much legal knowledge, with so many requisites to constitute one of the first orators in the British senate. Not more a profound lawyer than a most ready and powerful debater, his services were experienced in the most signal manner in support of the various measures brought forward in consequence of the American war, as well as all the great constitutional questions agitated during his time.

Since his accession to the House of Lords his merit has shone with equal lustre. His defence of Mr. Hastings, whose administration in India his lordship always took occasion to extol in the highest terms of panegyric in his senatorial capacity, forms a very striking *trait* in his lordship's history. Amidst all the prejudice raised against that great oriental character, his lordship persevered in the opinion he had formed of his talents and integrity, and with an ardor and zeal in the cause of justice that can never be sufficiently admired and applauded, nobly and generously continued his advocate till he was honorably acquitted by the high court of Parliament of the crimes and misdemeanors contained in the impeachment of the Commons.

Nor will his name fail being remembered for the spirited and decisive manner in which he opposed Mr. Fox's East India bill, but nothing is so likely to perpetuate his virtue and fortitude as his conduct on his Majesty's illness in 1788. However others might be mean or ungrateful enough to forget themselves, the loyalty of Lord Thurlow never for a moment forsook him. On the contrary, he took occasion in the most apt and pathetic terms to describe the ill deserved situation of his sovereign——

“Deserted in his utmost need,

“By those his former bounty fed.”

His lordship took notice of the eloquent and energetic manner in which Earl Mansfield, then Viscount Stormont, expressed his feelings on the melancholy situation of his Majesty, feelings rendered more poignant from his having been in the habits of personally receiving various marks of indulgence and kindness from the suffering sovereign. His own sorrow, Lord Thurlow observed, was aggravated by the same circumstance. His debt of gratitude also to his Majesty was ample for the many favors his Majesty had graciously conferred upon him, which when he forgot, his lordship emphatically added, he hoped “*that God might forget him.*”

The noble lord strictly adhered to his word, and on the 2d of February, 1789, he had the peculiar satisfaction and heart-felt delight of announcing to the House of Lords the probable recovery of the King, whose returning health soon afterwards rendered unnecessary the famous

mous regency bill, on which opposition had raised such endless stores of wealth and greatness.

On his lordship's resignation of the seals in 1794, he was appointed one of the tellers of the exchequer, the reversion of which had been granted him on his coming to the seals. His lordship also enjoys a pension of 2,600*l.* a year with which it was agreed he was to retire, and his Majesty has since extended his patent of peerage in favor of his nephews, the two sons of the late Bishop of Durham.

His lordship, considered as a speaker, is certainly a most powerful and forcible orator. He combats his adversaries with almost every species of argument from the naked, unqualified, unsupported, flat assertion, or round contradiction, down to the sarcastic joke. He is always plausible, and is the best advocate ever heard in a weak cause. There is an expression of countenance denoting a conviction of truth, and a manner of pressing his arguments seemingly arising from the same source, accompanied by a certain energy of expression, which, united, renders him most formidable in the line of parliamentary persuasion.

During the time his lordship presided in the House of Lords, his address was happily used in confining the speakers from wandering beyond the question before them.

We cannot better conclude our imperfect sketch of this great man than by referring to the high character given

ven of him by Mr. Fox, who took occasion to observe in the House of Commons, amongst other expressions equally honorable to him, "*that his shining talents, firmness of mind, and above all, his incorruptible integrity, justly entitled him to be considered as one of the greatest pillars of the state.*"

His lordship, considered as a speaker, is certainly a most powerful and forcible orator. He commands his adversaries with almost every species of argument from the balanced, unbalanced, unopposed, the allusion, or round contradiction, down to the double joke. He is always plausible, and is the best advocate ever heard in a weak cause. There is an expression of countenance denoting a conviction of truth, and a manner of pressing his arguments fearfully arising from the same source, accompanied by a certain energy of expression, which, united with his almost invincible in the line of parliamentary persuasion.

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VISCOUNT

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VISCOUNT SIDNEY.

THOMAS Townshend, Viscount Sidney, Lord Sidney, and Baron Sidney, of Chislehurst, in Kent, was born in February 1733, and May the 19th, 1760, was married to Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Richard Powys, Esq.

His lordship is cousin to the present Marquis Townshend, being son of Thomas, the third son of Charles, the second Viscount, and nephew to Charles the late Viscount. He was created a peer of Great Britain March 6, 1783, and advanced to the dignity of a viscount the 18th of August, 1789.

Few members ever made themselves of more weight and consequence in the House of Commons, in which he sat as one of the representatives for Whitchurch, in Hampshire.

In 1765 he was appointed one of the lords of the treasury; in 1767 he was made paymaster general of his Majesty's forces; in 1782 he was secretary at war, and in 1783 his lordship was promoted to the office of secretary of state for the home department, which situation he held with the most vigilant attention to the regulation of

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the police, till the 5th of June, 1789, when he resigned it in favor of Lord Grenville.

His lordship is, at present, chief justice in Eyre's Court of Trent, to which he was appointed the 13th of June, 1789, a governor of the Charter House, and a vice president of the Asylum.

His lordship's second daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born the 2d of September, 1762, was married July 7, 1783, to the Earl of Chatham. Another of his daughters, Miss Harriet Townshend, was married in March last to the Earl of Dalkeith; and his eldest son, the Honorable John Thomas Townshend, born February 21, 1764, is one of the present members for Whitchurch, and a lord of the treasury.

No one in either House of Parliament has a truer or more extensive knowledge of the constitution, or a more intimate acquaintance with the rules and orders of the Lords and Commons. His political information has enabled him to shew himself to the highest advantage on all the great national subjects that have been agitated during his time, while his long experience, well-grounded understanding, and deep practice in the art of speaking, has long since rendered him equal to any opponent he has had to encounter in the course of debate.

He is equally alive to the just prerogatives of the crown, and the genuine rights of the people, and maintains both with a spirit and firmness, that never fail to silence the attacks of opposition.

MR.

MR. WHITBREAD, JUN.

THIS gentleman is the son of Mr. Whitbread, whose extensive concerns as a brewer are well known to the world, and succeeded his father in the year 1790 as one of the members for the town of Bedford.

Born to one of the first fortunes in the country, he was sent at a proper age to the University of Cambridge, where he was reckoned amongst the best scholars of his time. On his leaving college, he went abroad with Mr. Lambton, the member for Durham, and visited some of the principal courts of Europe.

His parliamentary career was avowedly commenced on the part of opposition, with whom he has uniformly acted on all great constitutional questions. He is one of the society styled, the Friends of the People, and a most strenuous advocate both in and out of Parliament for a reform in the election of the House of Commons.

When men of such respectable talents and splendid fortunes stand forward in the support of a cause, and without the remotest appearance of any private views, it is apt to make a no inconsiderable impression in its favor on the public mind, and even to claim the most serious attention from those who have never been able to see

either the necessity or utility of the measure. Of the purity of this gentleman's intentions no one can doubt; but there are those who think that abilities, however brilliant and dazzling, may not always be under the guidance of a sound and sober judgment, and that party zeal may sometimes hurry away the best of individuals into a conduct that actually seems to be at variance with their own good sense and understanding.

The origin, progress, and supposed motive of the war, have always been the objects of his attack, though most of those he acts with, at least, certainly approved of the inducement ministry had for *entering* into it, and no one more particularly than the Duke of Clarence, though at present so ready, as well as others in opposition, on all occasions to reprobate the farther just and necessary prosecution of it.

His Royal Highness said, "it appeared to him, that it was of very little signification, whether the opening of the *Scheldt* was of any consequence to us. It was quite sufficient for *our* interference, if the Dutch held it to be so to *them*; for if the French, added the Duke, should overturn that government, and afterwards have a design upon *our's*, we might, in that case, meet with the Dutch fleet as *enemies*, whereas we should from the conduct we observed meet with them as *friends*."

As a speaker, Mr. Whitbread most undoubtedly stands high on the scale of merit. Perfectly master of his subject, and bold and confident in his arguments, his delivery

is always equally fluent and animated. Though not much experienced in the debates of the House of Commons, he speaks with all the knowledge and information of the most complete and finished veteran. His ideas are correct, his language elegant, and his manner interesting; nor are questions of the first political magnitude, combining in them the most important political and commercial interests of the British empire, treated by him with less familiarity and ability than those of the most trifling nature.

He was married in 1788 to Miss Grey, daughter to Sir Charles Grey, K. B. and sister to Mr. Grey the member for Northumberland.

HONORABLE BANKS JENKINSON.

WHEN it is considered that this distinguished character is the son of that truly great and finished statesman, Lord Hawkeſbury, it will not be wondered at, that he ſhould have received the moſt complete education, and be poſſeſſed of every acquirement to make a ſhining and ſplendid figure in public life.

He was elected a member of Parliament for Appleby at the general election in 1790, and continued to ſit in the Houſe of Commons without taking any part whatever in public buſineſs till the year 1792, when he gave a moſt ſtriking proof, indeed, on the 29th of February, of his abilities, by ſpeaking at large on the ſubject of French affairs in his *maiden* ſpeech.

He took a moſt extenſive and comprehensive view of continental politics, and entered into the hiſtory of almoſt every European nation, in the courſe of which, he diſplayed the fullreſt knowledge of their reſpective governments, and reſources in war and peace. He adjusted in a moſt maſterly manner their different weights in the ſcale of empire, and accurately ſtated the advantages and diſadvantages that would be felt by each from any change whatever, either by conqueſt or defeat.

His

His parliamentary *coup d'essai*, which was near two hours in delivering, received the most flattering encomiums from Mr. Burke and others, as one of the finest pieces of oratory ever heard, and was full of reasoning and argument, of original views and bold conclusions, the result of deep attention, and well-grounded reflections.

It is in the nature of superior genius to disdain attaining the higher ranks of political consequence by slow and gradual means. Hence this gentleman was seen to burst at once into the zodiac of parliamentary fame, and to form as it were within himself a constellation of the brightest qualities. His course has accordingly been in the most splendid track, and marked with flights of the most enviable and grandest nature. He began with earnestly recommending continental alliances. His next step was a bold and ingenious defence of the slave trade, which was followed by an able and spirited opposition to the innovating designs of our modern reformers.

On the conduct of opposition in affecting to deprecate the horrors of war, no one has been more happy or successful in his remarks. "It is really astonishing, Mr. Jenkinson observed, that gentlemen should expatiate so much on the dreadful consequences of war, and the danger of entering into it, when in the year 1787, at the time of the Spanish armament, *they treated the negotiations of administration for peace as the height of meanness, and endeavoured to urge the nation precipitately into a war.* Opposition had then no doubt of our finances and resources being fully adequate to every purpose

“ purpose of it. If war was considered as advantageous
 “ to us a few years ago, it must, said Mr. Jenkinson, be
 “ infinitely more so at present. He had the pride to think
 “ the national *honor* at least of as high consideration as the
 “ national *interest*, and a war would have at least this
 “ good effect. It would prevent the correspondence of
 “ the seditious persons in this country, who wished to
 “ overturn the constitution, with the French.”

This gentleman, who, to his being deeply read, has greatly enriched his knowledge from books, by repeated excursions to the continent, and an intimate personal acquaintance with foreign courts and politics, possesses a surprising portion of information, and a most uncommon share of penetration. He has an easy command of language, is florid and elegant, and uncommonly successful in the theological and argumentative style of speaking.

He was born the 7th of June, 1770, and was married the 25th of last March to Lady Louisa Hervey, daughter to the Earl of Bristol, and Bishop of Derry.

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

NO one has ever been more respected either in his public or private character than this gentleman, who was first elected a member of the House of Commons for Lestwithiel, in Cornwall, in 1784, and afterwards for Caithnessshire in 1790, for which place he at present sits.

He was created a baronet the 4th of February, 1786, and has in his parliamentary conduct been equally attentive to the true principles of the constitution, and the general good of society, of which his endeavours in procuring a board of agriculture will long be in the grateful recollection of the British nation. On the 15th of May, 1793, he moved that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, "that his Majesty would be most graciously pleased to consider the advantages which might be derived from the establishment of a board of agriculture for internal improvement," the farther discussion of which was adjourned till the Friday following, when the House dividing, there appeared in favor of the motion 101, against it 26. It was proposed that 3,000*l.* per annum should be expended on this business, which was merely of an experimental nature.

Accordingly on the 31st of August, 1793, the King was pleased, by letters patent under the great seal, to con-

stitute a board for the encouragement of agriculture and internal improvement, and to appoint Sir John Sinclair, Bart. to be the president. The following great officers of state, noblemen, and gentlemen are the members thereof:

Archbishop of Canterbury,	Duke of Grafton,
Lord High Chancellor,	Duke of Bedford,
Archbishop of York,	Duke of Buccleugh,
Lord President of the Council,	Marquis of Bath,
Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal,	Earl of Winchelsea,
	Earl of Hopetoun,
	Earl Fitzwilliam,
First Commissioner of the Treasury,	Earl of Egremont,
First Commissioner of the Admiralty,	Earl of Lonsdale,
	Earl of Moira,
Bishop of London,	Earl of Carysfort,
Bishop of Durham,	Bishop of Landaff,
The Principal Secretaries of State,	Lord Hawke,
	Lord Clive,
	Lord Sheffield,
Master-General of the Ordnance,	Lord Romney,
	The Right Hon. William Wyndham, Esq.
The Speaker of the House of Commons,	Sir Charles Morgan, Bart.
President of the Royal Society,	Sir William Pulteney, Bart.
Surveyor-General of His Majesty's Woods and Forests,	Thomas William Coke, Esq.
	Thomas Powys, Esq.
	Henry Duncombe, Esq.
Surveyor of the Crown Lands,	Edward Loveden Loveden, Esq.

John

John Southey Somerville, John Conyers, Esq.
 Esq. William Geary, Esq.
 Robert Barclay, Esq. Sir John Call, Bart. Treas-
 Robert Smith, Esq. surer; and
 George Sumner, Esq. Arthur Young, Esq. Secre-
 Christopher Willoughby, tary to the said Board.
 Esq.

The honor not only of being appointed to preside over such a splendid assemblage of the most eminent characters in the kingdom, but also of being the founder of an institution of such real and general utility to the kingdom, must be highly flattering to the pride of an individual, and we are extremely happy that it is likely to answer the expectations it has raised in the opinion of the public.

Soon after the appointment of the board they published the objects of their inquiry, which consisted of thirty-four different heads, and begun their operations by directing a survey to be taken of the several counties of Great Britain, in order to ascertain the excellencies and defects of the husbandry practised in each, so as to enable them to make a report of the present state of husbandry throughout the kingdom, and to point out what improvements can be made therein.

The nature of the institution, however, may be best understood from the address of Sir John Sinclair to the members, who observed at a general meeting the first day of their being assembled,

That

That, from the circumstance of his having moved in Parliament for the establishment of that board, his Majesty had been graciously pleased to nominate him as president, a situation to which he could not otherwise have aspired, among so many members distinguished by superior talents, and possessed of greater experience and skill in husbandry; but that he would endeavour to make up for any personal deficiency, by the most unwearied zeal and attention to promote the objects for which the board was constituted.

That no man would have ventured to have made such a motion in Parliament, without having previously sketched out in his own mind some general ideas respecting the system that might be pursued, in case the proposed institution should take place, and that he would shortly state to the board what had occurred to him upon the subject.

That having carried on, for some years past, a correspondence with above 1,500 individuals, on matters of a public nature (for promoting the improvement of British wool, and examining with great minuteness into the political state of Scotland) he was enabled, by the experience which he had thus acquired, to ascertain in a great measure those leading principles on which so great and extensive a plan might be conducted; and these he would shortly submit to the consideration of the meeting.

That in the first place, he had much satisfaction in stating, as the foundation on which the edifice of national improvement might be built, that there existed in these kingdoms

kingdoms a greater fund of solid ability and of useful information, and a greater extent of actual and efficient capital, than, so far as he could judge, any other country, of the same extent and population, in the universe could boast of; and that little more would be necessary, but to call forth that ability, and to collect that information, and to give the capital of the country a direction or tendency to increase internal wealth and cultivation, in preference to more distant objects, in order to make this island, what it ought to be, "*the garden of Europe.*"

On the 20th of February, 1795, Parliament voted 3,000*l.* towards defraying the expences of the board of agriculture, and to enable them to make a farther progress of their design.

In the parliamentary history of Sir John Sinclair, we find him exerting his abilities on many other public occasions, equally for the honor and interest of the British empire.

Some few years ago he published a very important and interesting work entitled, "The History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire." This book begins with an account of the progress of the national income, and of the public expences since the Revolution. The author observes, that the circumstances of the country at the accession of William to the throne, were such, that no tax could be depended upon as shewing the produce of the wealth and income of England at that time. That it might be rendered as efficient as possible, new assessments

ments were taken of the property and income that every individual possessed, but the rate was far from being equal. Those who were attached to the principles established at the Revolution, were forward to shew their zeal in favor of the new government, and gave in a fair statement of their real situation, whilst the secret and avowed friends of the exiled family, the sordid and avaricious, gave in a very different account, estimating their property at the lowest rate it could be calculated. Hence the assessments since known under the name of land tax, were not in any respect so productive as they ought to have been.

As a speaker he possesses a manner extremely impressive and interesting. In his deportment he is graceful, in his language polished and correct, and in his mode of arguing he aims more at *conviction* than *assertion*. His knowledge extends to every subject, and always ensures him a most respectful attention from both sides of the House.

ALDERMAN

ALDERMAN CURTIS.

OF those who present themselves to public notice, none are perhaps so much entitled to the fair esteem and respect of the world, as the man who has, through his own personal merit and laudable exertions, raised himself into some of the first distinctions of life.

In this point of view no one stands more eminently conspicuous than Mr. Curtis. By an honorable pursuit in mercantile engagements, he has had the happiness to realize an independent fortune, and to possess all those respectable appendages, which naturally attach to the character of one of the first citizens of the British empire.

He was chosen alderman of Tower ward in 1785, and in 1789 served the office of sheriff with Sir Benjamin Hammet, with an equal degree of spirit and reputation.

His constitutional principles and general acquaintance with trade, particularly recommending him to the notice of the Livery of London, as a fit and proper person to be one of their representatives in Parliament, he was invited at the general election in the year 1790, to offer himself a candidate for the same, when he was supported in such a manner as to be placed by their free and unbiassed suffrages

frages at the head of the poll, the numbers being at the of it as follow——

Wm. Curtis, Esq.	-	-	4346
Brook Watfon, Esq.	-	-	4101
Sir W. Lewes,	-	-	3747
J. Sawbridge, Esq.	-	-	3586
N. Newnham, Esq.	-	-	2670
Alderman Pigot, the Lord Mayor,			1064

He is also a banker in the city under the firm of Roberts, Curtis, Were, Hornyold, Berwick, and Co.

Since his election into Parliament he has taken a very active part in the debates, and shewn a very anxious concern for the interests of the city of London, which he has on all occasions attended to with the utmost readiness and ability.

He was amongst those who defended the Spanish convention. It was a measure, he said, highly beneficial to commerce. The fisheries were a source of wealth, every day becoming more productive, and their flourishing state could not but be greatly promoted by the additional security which they had, through the wisdom and spirit of administration, happily acquired.

On the plan brought forward by Mr. Pitt last session for more effectually manning the royal navy, he took an opportunity of delivering his opinion on so interesting a subject,

subject, when he gave it his hearty support in a manner highly satisfactory to the House.

He also supported the King's proclamation to prevent riots, tumults, and seditious meetings, and all those salutary measures so necessarily taken to suppress the conspiracies against the state.

His loyalty and public zeal are of the most unshaken nature. His countenance both in his senatorial and individual capacity has always been given with equal energy, both in the senate and in the city, in favor of the war, which he has recommended to be prosecuted with the utmost vigor, as the most likely means of obtaining a lasting and permanent peace.

Actuated by these sentiments he lately stood forward in the House of Commons in a very spirited manner, to rescue the citizens of London from the odium of having petitioned the House of Commons for a mean and ignominious peace, when he clearly proved that the petition had been procured by a set of people promiscuously assembled at Guildhall, under the name of the Livery of London, against the true sense of that great and respectable body, who have so repeatedly manifested their attachment to the King and constitution.

The duty of a representative of the city of London certainly requires a man of business, and an active turn of mind, from the constant pressure of its *local* concerns, as well as an independent character, and hence no one

can

can be thought more eligible than the worthy alderman, who has already proved his knowledge of the political and commercial interests of the state, and been heard to deliver himself with so much information, and in those spirited and manly terms that ought ever to characterize a representative of the first city in the universe.

EARL

EARL OF WYCOMBE.

THIS nobleman is the son of the Marquis of Lansdown, and was elected to the House of Commons in 1786 for Chipping Wycombe, on the Earl of Stanhope's being summoned to the House of Lords on the death of his father.

He has always, in his politics, taken a very decided part on the side of opposition, and has on more occasions than one suffered his *zeal* in the cause to hurry him into a conduct altogether singular and extraordinary.

Viewing politics through the same optics as his noble father in the Upper House, the war has always appeared to him in colours equally terrific and alarming.

On his Majesty's message to the House of Commons the 28th of January, 1793, on the conduct of the French, his lordship condemned the war, in which we were likely to be engaged, as wholly unnecessary and alarming, as a war *against the cause of liberty*, and the rights of an *independent* nation. It would be a war, he said, exhibiting the phenomenon of a free nation, warring for despotism and tyranny.

On his Majesty's proclamation, presented by Mr. Secretary Dundas to the House of Commons, the 21st of May, 1792, against seditious writings and meetings, the Earl of Wycombe was pointedly against the proclamation, and condemned it as wholly unnecessary, and only calculated to attach a consequence to those writings and meetings the ministry so much condemned.

The sentiments that actuated the Prince of Wales, who felt the subject, perhaps, more dear and interesting than any other individual, were, however, of a very different nature. His Royal Highness, in tone and dignity, and in terms suited to his high rank, declared his opinion of the principles of the constitution of his country, a subject which, at a very early period of his life, he had, he said, contemplated with unspeakable pleasure, and which to the end of it, he hoped would continue unimpaired. It was a constitution, the Prince said, which had afforded protection to all ranks and classes, and, he trusted, would continue that advantage. He, therefore, thought it was the duty of every well-wisher to this country, and true lover of real freedom, to support the constitution by every effort in his power, as a sacred gift delivered to our ancestors, and considered by them as the best practical model of civil government, to secure the liberty, the prosperity, and happiness of the subject.

Such were the noble and exalted sentiments of the Prince of Wales, so truly worthy the heir apparent of the crown of Britain, in contradiction to those of the Earl of Wycombe.

As

As a speaker, though he has travelled through Europe and America, and possesses a considerable fund of that sort of political knowledge, which, from the length of time it has been collecting by the Marquis of Lansdown, may be called *the stock in trade* of the family, he is nevertheless weak and puerile, and so indiscriminate in his attacks of ministry, as to entirely destroy the *effect* of his endeavours to depreciate their measures.

MR. MAINWARING.

AMONGST the more useful and respectable members of the House of Commons, no one is better entitled to rank than this gentleman, who was first elected a representative for the county of Middlesex in the year 1784, when the late Mr. George Byng lost his election, not being able to poll more than 1787, while Mr. Mainwaring had 2117 votes, and Mr. Wilkes, who was elected with him, 1858.

In 1790 he had the honor of moving the address to his Majesty in answer to his most gracious speech from the throne at the opening of the session, on which occasion he complimented ministry in very handsome terms on the manner in which they had terminated all differences with the court of Spain, and said, that the convention between this country and the court of Madrid reflected the highest credit on administration, to whose vigor and wisdom it was to be imputed.

Amongst many other matters of great public convenience and reputation, Mr. Mainwaring brought in the bill passed into an act in 1794, for the better regulation of the sabbath. He also brought in a bill for the better securing the property of nursery-men, and was the means

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of procuring innkeepers and others an increase of pay for soldiers quartered on them. The plan for transporting felons to Botany Bay had also his warmest support. He was convinced, he said, from experience, that it was entirely owing to the having abandoned, for some time, the sentences of transportation, that such numerous, such daring, and such dangerous gangs of villains had assembled to the great annoyance of the public. It was the substitution of a different mode of punishment, which did not effectually remove from the kingdom gangs of the description to which he had alluded, that had peopled the metropolis with thieves.

Mr. Mainwaring holds no place immediately under government, but is first prothonotary in the court of Common Pleas, and chairman of the quarter sessions held at Clerkenwell, in which respectable situation he is universally esteemed for the unwearied attention, legal knowledge, and judicious moderation with which he presides, and the able manner in which he regulates the police of the county.

The business of the freeholders of Middlesex never suffers their representatives in Parliament to remain idle and inactive, but never had they a member more attentive to its particular interests, or diligently anxious to serve them on any occasion than Mr. Mainwaring, for which his general knowledge and ready talents so well qualify him.

Nor is he less alive to the great national concerns of the state, on the more important questions respecting which he is found to vote, equally unbiassed by a blind or servile attachment to administration, or any intemperate zeal in favor of opposition.

It is owing to the nature of his position, that he is not only a member of the House of Commons, but also a member of the Privy Council, and a member of the Council of State. It was the object of the Government to place him in a position which would enable him to remove from the kingdom any of the persons to whom he had attached, that had people in the metropolis with their eyes on him.

Mr. Mainwaring holds no place immediately in the Government, but is first prothonotary in the court of Common Pleas, and chairman of the quarter sessions held at Clerkenwell, in which respectable position he is universally respected for the unwearied attention, legal knowledge, and judicious moderation with which he presides, and the manner in which he regulates the business of the court.

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SERJEANT ADAIR.

THIS gentleman, who has long been equally eminent at the bar and in the senate, was first elected a member of Parliament for Cockermouth in 1774, but at present sits as one of the representatives for Higham Ferrers, for which he was chosen in 1794.

Amongst the popular characters that have distinguished themselves in the great theatre of public life, none, perhaps, have appeared with more credit to themselves, or greater use to the community.

His father was an Irish factor of considerable note in Aldermanbury, and being regularly trained to the law, and admitted to practice in the different courts, his abilities soon made him known, and recommended him to the notice of the Lord Mayor and aldermen on the death of Serjeant Glynn, who elected him their recorder the 4th of October, 1779, and advanced his salary from 800l. to 1,000l. per annum, as a mark of their respect and esteem.

In this office he gave the most general satisfaction. No one was ever more able or punctual in the exercise of the duties, no one ever experienced more pain from the discharge of them. Where his humanity could be shewn

without violating the principles of justice, the unfortunate culprit had every thing to hope, and when the aggravated crimes of the most hardened and incorrigible offenders, inevitably doomed them to die, and compelled him to pass the sad and dreadful sentence, the tear of pity, and of commiseration, never failed to bespeak the soft benevolence of his heart!

Highly sensible as the court of aldermen must have been of the advantages, as well as the honor of his services, it will not be wondered at, that they should, in the year 1789, have experienced no little mortification in receiving a letter from him containing his resignation, a step, we understand, that he was induced to take from his inability to render the justice he thought due to the office of recorder from his accumulated, and increasing practice in the court of Common Pleas, one of the judges of which, the late learned and truly valuable Sir John Wilson, had lately been married to his daughter.

The learned serjeant was first chosen to a seat in the House of Commons when opposition ran so high against the American war, and about the time when Mr. Dunning carried his famous resolution, "that the influence of the crown had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished." The moment was favorable for the display of his abilities, and they were accordingly exercised against the then ministry with all the weight and consequence naturally to be expected from them.

In

In the year 1784 he retired from Parliament, and remained out of it till the 22d of January, 1794, since which time he has taken a very conspicuous part in the defence of administration, whose proceedings in general, but particularly in the late suspension of the habeas corpus act, and the prosecution of persons charged with high treason, he fully explained and justified on the true principles of the constitution, as well as of policy and reason.

He hoped the House was sensible, while certain gentlemen were stating that the palladium of English liberty was destroyed by the suspension of the habeas corpus act, that only one single clause of that most excellent act, that was applicable to the offence of high treason, had been in fact suspended; all the rest of that valuable act was left untouched, and in the full possession of the people of this country, as much as if no such act as that of the last session had ever taken place.

With regard to the opinion of some professional men in the House, respecting the verdicts given at the Old Bailey, *proving* that no conspiracies had existed, he expressed himself very much surprised at the language. He believed that no man who heard him had an higher respect than he for that institution: but he was very far from thinking that the institution of juries would either be advantageous to individuals or to the general administration of justice, if the verdicts of juries were to be attended with those effects which had been stated by some gentlemen. It came to this general proposition, that by the verdict of acquittal

of a jury, the innocence of the party acquitted was completely and for ever, and in all cases, established beyond all doubt and controversy. That was a proposition to which he could not agree; and notwithstanding the language of his honorable and learned friend, Mr. Erskine, notwithstanding the insult to the prisoners that had been acquitted; notwithstanding the surprise expressed by some persons, he could never agree with his honorable and learned friend that it was not constitutional; that it was not decent; that it was not proper, whenever the occasion should occur, even to arraign the verdict of a jury. If that was so, what was to become of the superintending power of Parliament; of that power which, by the constitution, was lodged in them for correcting the abuses of every part of the administration of justice from the highest to the lowest.

On the late trials for high treason he was employed on the part of the crown, and surely nothing could more strongly mark the moderation of government, than their retaining against the parties accused a gentleman who had so much distinguished himself in our courts of law as the prisoner's friend, and who in every action of his life makes the most perfect candor and the strictest impartiality the basis of his conduct.

With respect to the French Revolution, and the prosecution of the war, he perfectly coincides with the Duke of Portland and his friends, with whom he acts on all great national questions.

He

He is rather an able than a brilliant speaker. If, however, he never seeks to dazzle with his eloquence, he seldom fails to convince by his arguments, which are always sound and constitutional. His doctrine is always well grounded, his ideas clear and correct, his reasoning strong and forcible, and his conclusions natural and unanswerable.

In law, as in politics, he has ever acted on the purest principles. On all occasions his conscience alone seems to be his guide. Whether at the bar in behalf of his client, or in Parliament on any great question, he has ever afforded the most satisfactory and convincing proofs of the earnestness of his zeal, and the sincerity of his intentions, as well as the force and weight of his abilities.

DUKE

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

THE antiquity of this noble family goes back to the Saxon times. From that early period it has continued to be distinguished. John, the first Duke of Norfolk, attained to signal distinction in the reign of Richard the Third, and died fighting for that Prince in Bosworth fields. Thomas, the second Duke of Norfolk, figured in the reigns of Edward the Fourth, Henry the Seventh, and Henry the Eighth. His eldest son Thomas, who was third Duke of Norfolk, experienced in a high degree the favor and resentment of that capricious Prince, Henry the Eighth. Thomas, the fourth Duke of Norfolk, is celebrated in history for his attachment to Mary Stuart, the beautiful Queen of Scots. Philip, his eldest son, was miserably persecuted by Queen Elizabeth for his attachment to popery. His only son Thomas was the fifth Duke of Norfolk. He was a great master in the fine arts, and gave a lustre to the reign of James the First. Henry, the sixth Duke of Norfolk, was born July the 12th, 1628, and was carefully cultivated by foreign travel. His eldest son, Henry, was the seventh Duke of Norfolk, and was distinguished by his magnificence and splendor. Thomas, the eighth Duke of Norfolk, was born December the 10th, 1683, and on May 29, 1706, his Grace was married to Mary, daughter and heir of Sir Nicholas Shireburn, of Stonyhurst in the county palatine of Lancaster,

Bart.

Bart. and died in December 23, 1732, at his house in Saint James's Square, leaving his duchess surviving, who afterwards married with Peregrine Widdrington, Esq. and died the 24th of September, 1754.

Charles, the late and ninth Duke of Norfolk, married Catherine, daughter of John Brockholes, of Cloughton, in the County of Lancaster, Esq. by whom he had issue a daughter, Mary, born in June 1742, and died in November 1756 unmarried.

His son, Charles, the tenth, and present Duke of Norfolk, was born the 15th of March, 1745. In 1767 he was married to his first wife, Mary Anne, sole daughter and heir of John Coppinger of Ireland, Esq. which lady died without issue on May the 28th, 1768, and was buried at Darking in Surrey, and on April the 2d, 1771, he was married at Saint George's Church, Hanover Square, to Lady Frances, only child of Charles Fitzroy Scudamore, of Home Lacey, in the county of Hereford, Esq. but has no issue.

The Duke of Norfolk has precedence of all other dukes, not only by his creation, but likewise in respect to his office, as Earl Marshal of England, and takes place with the Lord Great Chamberlain, Lord Great Constable, and Lord High Admiral of England, Lord Steward, and Lord Chamberlain of the King's household, next after the Lord Privy Seal, and above all other personages being of the same estate and degree.

The

The titles of the Duke of Norfolk are, the most high and mighty, and most noble Prince Charles Howard, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal, and hereditary Marshal of England, Earl of Arundel, Surrey, Norfolk, and Norwich, Baron of Mowbray, Howard, Segrave, Brew-
 oss of Gower, in Carmarthenshire, Fitzallan, Warren, Clun, Oswaldestre, Maltravers, Greystock, Furnival, Verdon, Lovetot, Strange of Blackmore, and Howard of Castle Rising, premier Duke, Earl, and Baron of England, next the blood royal, and chief of the most illustrious family of the Howards.

The Duke of Norfolk is hereditary Earl Marshal of England. Before it became so commercial a country, as it has been for a hundred years past, this office required great abilities, learning, and knowledge of the English history for its discharge. In war time he was judge of army causes, and decided according to the principles of the civil law. If the law did not admit of such a decision, it was left to a personal combat, which was attended with a vast variety of ceremonies, the arrangement of which, even to the smallest trifle, fell within the marshal's province. To this day, he, or his deputy, regulates all points of precedence according to the archives kept in the herald's office, which is entirely within his jurisdiction. He directs all solemn processions, coronations, proclamations, general mournings, and the like. He is supposed to be judge of the Marshalsea court, and in those reigns where proclamations had the force of law, he had a censorial power in all cases of usurping false names, designations, armorial bearings, and other things of a similar nature;
 . but

but this power is now disputed, and reduced to a conformity with the common law. The hereditary Earl Marshal wears as his badge a gold baton tipped with ebony.

The present Duke is the first who has executed the office in person, his predecessors being of the Roman Catholic religion, and of course disabled therefrom, it has been performed by deputy. The late Earl of Effingham was the last who acted in that situation.

His Grace sat in the House of Commons for Carlisle, to which he was first elected in 1780. In 1783 he was appointed one of the lords of the treasury, and is at present lord lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, colonel of the militia of the same, recorder of Gloucester, high steward of Hereford, and a vice-president of the Welch charity.

His Grace has always taken a very active part in the debates, both in the Commons, and in the Lords. In the former, his attachment was particularly marked and pointed towards Mr. Fox and his political views, and in the latter, he has always stood forward in the foremost ranks of opposition, who reckon much on his Grace's name and consequence.

The war is never brought under the discussion of the House without the severest animadversions of the noble duke, who is continually pointing out the ill effects of it, and representing the impossibility of our being able to carry it on, at least with any effect, though, as Mr. Windham

ham truly observes, " If the war has been unsuccessful, it
 " has been so, only as compared with the wishes, the
 " hopes, and the force of our allies.

" It has been unsuccessful from conduct only on the
 " part of some of the confederacy. It is not unsuccess-
 " ful compared with foreign wars, in which this country
 " has been engaged. Look at the history of our wars
 " with Louis XIV. which continued with little interrup-
 " tion for *twenty years* after the Revolution. In those
 " wars we and our allies had been more unsuccessful than
 " in the present war, and yet by *spirit* and *perseverance*
 " we obtained a glorious triumph in the end."

HONORABLE

HONORABLE THOMAS MAITLAND.

THIS gentleman, who is a major of the 62d regiment of foot, is brother to the Earl of Lauderdale, and in 1790 was elected member for Jedburgh, in Scotland.

He has always been with Mr. Fox in his politics, and is one of the *satellites* that at present move round the great circle of opposition. He is, in fact, the counterpart of his noble brother in the Upper House, and attacks the measures of government with the same indiscriminate censure, intemperate zeal, and universal condemnation.

His shafts, indeed, are principally directed against the military concerns of government. In *his* opinion, the mode of raising men by the sale of commissions is open to a thousand objections. He censures all the operations of the different campaigns, particularly the miscarriage of Dunkirk, and the evacuation of Toulon, reprobates the erecting barracks, condemns the keeping a body of troops under Lord Moira, arraigns our treaties, depreciates our allies, deplores the exhausted state of our resources, and laments the impending fate of the British empire.

With regard to the first ground of his complaint, it was observed by Mr. Steele, "that while Major Maitland

"gality of favoring recruiting by selling ranks in regiments, *he himself had purchased rank* upon those very conditions, which he was reprobating as unconstitutional and alarming."

That a blind attachment, and implicit confidence, in ministry, is as improper as a mean suspicion, or unfounded jealousy of their conduct, is certainly not to be disputed, "but opposition, as Mr. Frederick Montagu observes, have got into such a habit of keeping the public mind continually on the fret with alarms, that it naturally puts us in mind of the story of the *shepherd*, who from frequently alarming the people with the cry of wolf, was at last never attended to."

As a parliamentary debater, he certainly ranks pretty forward in the second class, and has those talents that will always render his services acceptable to any party he may act with.

DUKE

DUKE OF MONTROSE.

HIS Grace was in 1784 elected a member for Bedwin, in Wilts, and continued to sit in the House of Commons till the year 1790, when he was called to the Lords on the death of his father.

James, the fourth marquis and first duke, succeeded his father in 1684, and soon after he came of age, was, by Queen Anne, made admiral of Scotland in 1705, and on April the 24th, 1707, her Majesty created him Duke of Montrose, which dignity was to descend, not only to his male issue, but also to his heirs of intail.

He married Christian Carnegie, daughter of David, Earl of Northesk. His Grace died 1741, and was succeeded by the late duke. King George the First was pleased to advance his eldest son, David, Marquis of Graham, to the peerage of England, by the title and title of Earl and Baron Graham, of Belford, in the county of Northumberland, May the 23d, 1722, with remainder to his two brothers, William and George, but the aforesaid David dying in 1731, unmarried, and George, a captain in the navy, dying in 1746, the second son, William, the late duke, who married Lady Lucy Manners, daughter of the second Duke of Rutland, succeeded his father

in 1741 as Duke of Montrose, and to the English honors on the death of his brother David in 1731.

The present duke was born the 8th of February, 1775, and married the 5th of March, 1785, *Jemima Elizabeth*, daughter of the Earl of Ashburnham, by whom he had issue a son, born the 4th of September, 1786. The Marchioness died fourteen days after, and the child the 23d of April, 1787. His Grace, besides the title of Duke, is Marquis and Earl of Montrose, Marquis and Baron of Graham, Dundaff, Kincarn, Mindoch, and Kinaber in Scotland, and Earl and Baron Graham, of Belford, in Northumberland, in England, by which title he sits in the English House of Peers.

His Grace was made one of the lords of the treasury in 1783, on Mr. Pitt's being minister, and continued at the Board till the 8th of August, 1789, when he was appointed paymaster-general of his Majesty's forces, which office he quitted in 1790, when he was made master of the horse to the King, which he resigned in 1795 to the Earl of Westmoreland.

He is, at present, a commissioner of the board of India controul, lord lieutenant of the county of Huntingdon, and chancellor of the university of Glasgow. His Grace is also a knight of the most ancient order of the Thistle.

No one has ever shewn a more consistent, or steady attachment to the just prerogatives of the crown, and the

the true principles of the constitution. His Grace opposed Mr. Fox's famous East India bill with the greatest spirit and ability, and highly distinguished himself on the regency business, and on all the great constitutional questions brought forward during the time he sat in the House of Commons. His Grace also had the honor of proposing the present Speaker as a fit and proper person for the chair, a circumstance that will long be remembered in proof of his Grace's judgment and penetration, since the conduct of Mr. Addington has been such, as to have well justified him in the elegant eulogiums he took an opportunity of passing on the brilliancy of his character.

Since his accession to the House of Lords, his Grace has justified the war, and supported it in all its parts, and various points of bearings, with a firmness that has contributed equally to his own reputation, and the credit of government.

As a speaker his Grace possesses much point and neatness. To an excellent understanding he joins a ready and easy delivery. He is well versed in politics, and always speaks to the purpose. Few, in either House, have ever preserved more dignity and consequence in their political conduct.

SIR WILLIAM PULTENEY, BART.

THIS gentleman has long been highly distinguished in the literary and political world, both as an elegant writer and an able speaker, and was first elected a member of Parliament in 1768 for Cromarty in Scotland, and afterwards in 1774 for Shrewsbury, which place he at present represents.

He is descended from a very respectable family of Scotland, of the name of Johnstone, and possessed the title of a baronet, in 1795, on the death of Sir James Johnstone, his eldest brother, who was member for Weymouth, and much remarked for his laconic, or Lacedemonian style of speaking, being seldom more than a minute and a half on his legs, as well as the blunt honesty with which he was accustomed to deliver himself on all occasions.

There were also two other brothers of the family, the late Governor Johnstone, and John Johnstone, Esq. both well known to the world for their talents and abilities, the former for the part he took in the debates of Parliament and the East India House, and likewise for some particular *traits* in his naval conduct, and the latter, who was also a member of the House of Commons, for his services in the East Indies.

Sir William had the good fortune in the early part of his life to marry the daughter of General Pulteney, and niece of the Earl of Bath, who was created in 1742, and whose son, Viscount Pulteney, one of the members in Parliament for the city of Westminster, dying, the title became extinct on the death of the earl in 1764, and on the demise of the general, the estate devolved to Mr. William Johnstone, who thereupon took the name of Pulteney.

On the 21st of July, 1795, the title of Earl of Bath was revived in favor of the issue of the daughter of Sir William Pulteney, lately married to Colonel Sir James Murray, Bart. member for Weymouth, who served with so much reputation as adjutant general to the British army, while under the command of the Duke of York.

Few characters in the House of Commons have ever arrived at a greater degree of celebrity than Sir William Pulteney, whose constitutional principles have always formed the basis of his conduct. In point of political knowledge no one is to be ranked before him. Equally well grounded in the just prerogatives of the crown, and the true liberties of the subject, and perfectly independent in his sentiments, he has always supported the character of a British senator without any improper bias to either side of the House.

As a speaker, though his vast information, great experience, and known abilities, well entitle him to a supe-

riority of distinction, he always delivers himself with great mildness, and the most unassuming manners. His speeches abound with matter that makes them interesting, and are always much in the style of a gentleman.

Parliament for the city of Westminster during the time became extinct on the death of the earl in 1764, and on the death of the general, the estate devolved to Mr. William Pulteney, who thereupon took the name of Earl Pulteney.

On the 25th of July, 1764, the title of Earl of Bath was revived in favor of the son of the daughter of Sir William Pulteney, lately married to Colonel Sir James Murray, that member for Westminster, who served with much reputation as adjutant-general to the British army, while under the command of the Duke of York.

Two characters in the House of Commons have ever arrived at a greater degree of celebrity than Sir William Pulteney, whose constitutional principles have always formed the basis of his conduct. In point of political knowledge no one is to be ranked before him. Especially well grounded in the just prerogatives of the crown, and the true liberties of the subject, and perfectly independent in his sentiments, he has always supported the character of a British senator without any improper bias to either

GEORGE

A speech, though his vast information, great experience, and known abilities, well entitled him to a high

GEORGE CANNING, Esq.

AMONGST the rising characters of the present Parliament, no one bids fairer to attain the first ranks of political consequence than this gentleman, who received his education at Eton school, where he acquired a no inconsiderable share of literary fame by the exercise of his talents and genius, in a periodical publication, written after the manner of the Spectator.

He has since entered himself a student of the Inner Temple, and is one of the representatives for Newton, Hants.

Contrary to the expectations formed of him, he has, since his election to a seat in the House of Commons, taken a very active and decided part in favor of administration, and fairly established his pretensions to the character of a speaker, in defiance of opposition, with a spirit and manliness that does him the greatest honor.

Indeed nothing but a certain degree of firmness of resolution can possibly effect this, since every young man, of whatever talent, upon his coming forward in the great field of parliamentary debate, may be compared to one, who is obliged to fight a *duel* in order to establish his courage. If he will suffer himself to be *brow-beat* and *run down*

down by the party, who are ever jealous of any one starting up in the shape of an opponent, he must inevitably sink in his attempt to face them. On the other hand, if they perceive him to have a proper share of spirit, and to be, as it were, *ready* to fight, he will be admitted to enter the list, and to rise whenever he pleases without any fear from their attacks.

In addressing his Majesty upon his gracious speech from the throne, on opening the session in 1794, the honor of seconding the motion for it was committed to Mr. Canning, who discharged the task imposed on him with the most brilliant display of his abilities.

No one has been more happy in justifying the measures of ministry on the subject of the war, or in depicting the true character of the French, and shewing the conduct we ought to observe towards them.

It may, said Mr. Canning, be suggested by those, who are possessed of ingenuity to address our reason, without convincing our hearts, or persuading our feelings, that the French are driven to their present state of desperation; that their moody and mischievous insanity is the result of provocation without, and treachery at home. No matter from what source their madness springs. As wild beasts they present themselves to us—as wild beasts we should treat them. Let them wear their garlands of straw—let them dress up their strumpets in leaves of oak, and nickname their calender. Let them play those pranks at home,
and

and we shall be but merry spectators—but let them not carry their insanity abroad.

Should our fears be excited, and should we be told, that their power is already formidable, let us remember *that power is unnatural which, consuming its own strength and vitals, must be daily impaired, and finally fall to decay.*

It can surely be no invidious station for those who, submitting to stern or imperious commands, can give the least countenance to any thing like a treaty of peace and intercourse with this deluded and unhappy people, thereby hanging out false and ensnaring hopes, and thereby poisoning the minds of their countrymen. The present situation is bad, say they—the prospect of the future still worse. Hence the false suggestions of the delusive hope of peace. But with *whom* is this peace to be made, or in *what* manner is the plan to be pursued and accomplished?

It is not a war, added Mr. Canning, founded on ambition, for the extent of their territory, or for the security of their commerce, in which the cession of an island, the withdrawing of our troops, or the giving up to them *this* or *that* particular branch of trade, would satisfy them, but it is a war that springs up in their perverse and monstrous decrees, and which says, “*give us up your constitution; surrender us that, and we have done.*” It is our constitution, our religion, and our laws, against which they are waging inexpiable war, and which they hope ultimately to subdue.

The

The several treaties formed with foreign powers by the minister have also been very fully and ably defended by this gentleman, who agreed with Mr. Powys and Mr. Ryder as to the treaties of 1703 and 1743 with Sardinia in Queen Anne's wars, and that of Worms, and also those formed in the wars of George the Second. But in considering the subject, he said, that the treaty of 1758 made with the King of Prussia was of all others most to the purpose, and exactly in point, wherein 670,000*l.* had been granted, as a subsidy to his Prussian Majesty, *for the purpose of defending his own dominions*, and contributing to the adjusting of the *balance* of Europe.

This grant was not then considered as wrung, by grinding oppression, from the labors of the poor, but was readily passed, and cheerfully acquiesced in, by the whole body of the nation. If, then, this treaty had met with so little opposition, added Mr. Canning, which had for its object the arrangement of the then political state of Europe, how much less should the present treaty, which forms a cement to the grand confederacy, meet, which has, for its greater object, not only the political adjustment of Europe, but the very existence of the religion, the morality, the laws, the liberties, and preservation of the whole system of the world!

This gentleman seems to be deeply read, and to have well studied the nature and constitutions of foreign countries, as well as the particular interests of his own. As a debater he has already shewn himself equal to the most important political questions, and gave the fairest promises
of

of increasing fame. His delivery is clear and rapid, his language rich and fanciful, and his manner extremely animated and striking, with a degree of confidence and spirit sufficient to shelter him against the effrontery of opposition.

HENRY THIPPS, the present Lord Mulgrave, was born in the year 1752, and came to the title of Lord Mulgrave, in the kingdom of Ireland, in the year 1792, on the death of his brother, Constantine Thipps, who died the 10th of August, at Liege, in Germany.

His lordship is third son to the Lord Mulgrave to whom his brother succeeded, and which title was created in 1767, by Lady Margaret, eldest sister of George William, the second Earl of Bristol. The late Lord Mulgrave gained his Irish title in 1772, and was created an English peer the 17th of June, 1790, the latter of which honors became extinct at his death, it descending only to his male issue, and his lordship leaving no children.

The present Lord Mulgrave was first elected a member of the House of Commons for Scarborough in 1779, and continued to represent it till the year 1792, when he was called to the Upper House, as a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Lord Mulgrave. His lordship is also a major general in the army, and colonel of the 5th regiment of foot guards.

LORD

LORD MULGRAVE.

HENRY Phipps, the present Lord Mulgrave, was born in the year 1755, and came to the title of Lord Mulgrave of the kingdom of Ireland, in the year 1792, on the death of his brother, Constantine Phipps, who died the 10th of August, at Liege, in Germany.

His lordship is third son to the Lord Mulgrave to whom his brother succeeded, and which title was created in 1767, by Lady Legel Hervey, eldest sister of George William, the second Earl of Bristol.

The late Lord Mulgrave attained his Irish title in 1775, and was created an English peer the 17th of June, 1790, the latter of which honors became extinct at his death, it descending only to his male issue, and his lordship leaving no children.

The present Lord Mulgrave was first elected a member of the House of Commons for Scarborough in 1779, and continued to represent it till the year 1795, when he was called to the Upper House, as a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Lord Mulgrave. His lordship is also a major general in the army, and colonel of the 31st regiment of foot guards.

In

In his parliamentary conduct his lordship has, in both Houses, ever been a firm and able supporter of government, and taken a very active part in most of the popular questions agitated during his time, especially on the subject of French affairs, in speaking of which the last session, his lordship gave a very concise, yet complete history of the different wars between this country and France, in many of which he admitted the French had been equally successful at first, but had, at last, been driven back into their own territory, and had their country invaded in its turn.

His lordship being abroad at the time Lord Hood made himself master of Toulon in 1793, he took the command of the British troops there as a *volunteer* in the service of his country, and gave several signal proofs of his military skill and personal courage, during the time he retained that situation, having resigned it on the arrival of General O'Hara, as the governor.

On his lordship's return to England, the evacuation of Toulon being touched on in the House of Commons, his lordship entered into a full and able defence of the plans that had been formed by administration, and also into a masterly description of the measures that had been taken to retain that place, and concluded with saying, that he had not the least doubt, but that, if all the garrison at Toulon had consisted of British troops, it would have been continued in the possession of this country.

He

His lordship last session took an opportunity of declaring, he thought that nothing had yet happened which ought to discourage the country from persevering in the war until there was an opportunity of making peace upon more advantageous and secure terms, than it could be done now. He said, that he professed no blind obedience to ministers; he acted only from his own opinion. The motion made for peace in his judgment went to hold forth a fallacy, as it intimated an intention to treat with men with whom we could not negotiate, because we could not negotiate with security. Could we treat with France, he asked, whilst she kept possession of Austrian Flanders? Were we prepared to resign the West India islands, which had resigned themselves to our protection; or the island of Corsica, "which had solicited our sovereignty?"

He has always been considered as a well informed, judicious speaker, equally spirited in his manner and his language. He never fails to meet the question fully and fairly, and to silence opposition in the most direct and manly manner.

J. C.

J. C. CURWEN, ESQ.

AT the general election in 1790, this gentleman was chosen one of the representatives for Carlisle, for which place he at present sits with Wilson Braddyl, Esq.

In his political conduct he is uniformly with opposition, and may be considered as standing pretty forward in the second class of speakers on that side.

He was formerly amongst those who expressed their hearty approbation of the war, but on the 28th of April, 1794, he took an opportunity of observing, "that he thought himself fully liberated from the pledge he had given to the right honorable gentleman, Mr. Pitt, to support the war, as its object appeared to be entirely changed, it being now solely to introduce a detestable despotism into an independent state."

On the subject of the King's proclamation in 1794, for suppressing seditious writings and meetings, and all the subsequent proceedings thought necessary to be adopted in support of government, he declared his dislike in the strongest terms, deeming the proclamation "wholly unnecessary, and calculated to excite groundless fears in the nation, and to hold up to public ill opinion."

"nion, those gentlemen *who had associated themselves for*
" purposes the most praise worthy.

Mr. Burke has observed, that when the *honest* English committee were admitted to the honor of the French convention, the British colours were hoisted, and each villain clasped the other to his bosom. "*Locked in sweet embraces they kissed the bloody cheeks of Carra and Marat.*" Like Pluto and Proserpine in the infernal regions, iron cheek to iron cheek joining, they hugged each other in horrid confraternity!

With regard to the question, whether any real cause of alarm existed, or not, we need only refer to the opinion of that worthy and able magistrate, Sir James Sanderson, Bart. who, expressing his astonishment at the persevering incredulity of Mr. Sheridan, entered into a statement of the measures he adopted, as chief magistrate of the city, *to suppress the Jacobin clubs that had existed,* and which had, for some time, been steadily pursuing their object of a constitution *similar to that of France,* upon the first opportunity that might present itself. He stated to the House, the conduct of the meeting at the King's Arms in the city, which he had been called upon to suppress, where the doctrines propagated were—*no king—no nobles—no clergy—and a convention.*

On the late establishment of the Prince of Wales's income, Mr. Curwen thought his Royal Highness should "*retire to regain public confidence,*" which he had never
 lost,

lost, but amongst modern reformers, and by their arts and practices.

Whatever this gentleman's abilities may be thought, the spirit of *prophecy* does not much seem to possess him, and the late decree of the French convention, for continuing two thirds of the present members at the general re-election appointed by the new constitution, must surely relieve him from any farther anxiety about our doing any thing to disturb the *independence* of the French nation.

K 2 MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM.

THIS distinguished nobleman, equally illustrious by the greatness of his family, and the splendor of his history, is the eldest son of the late George Grenville, who died in 1770, and was first lord of the treasury in the year 1763. He was born the 17th of June, 1753, and married, April the 16th, 1775, Mary, daughter of Robert Craggs, Earl Nugent of the kingdom of Ireland.

He was first elected a member of the House of Commons in 1774, for Buckinghamshire, for which place he continued to sit till the death of his uncle, Earl Temple, in 1779, when he succeeded him in his estate and title, and was called to the Upper House, and in 1789, on the death of Earl Nugent, he also succeeded to his honors.

His lordship was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland the 31st of July, 1782, which he resigned the 3d of May, 1783, and on the 16th of December following, he was made secretary of state for the home department. On the 3d of November, 1787, his lordship again went to Ireland as Lord Lieutenant, in which high situation his abilities and munificence were equally displayed. His lordship was on the 30th of November, 1784, created Marquis of Buckingham, and is at present a teller of the
exchequer

exchequer for life, lord lieutenant of the county of Bucks, and colonel of the Buckinghamshire militia.

During the time he sat in the House of Commons, his lordship was considered as a very able speaker, and from his great knowledge, and constitutional principles, was much coveted by all parties as one of the committee on the controverted elections, under the bill that has reflected so much lustre on his father's much respected name and public virtue.

Nor will the son be less honored in the annals of history than the father, who established the grand palladium of the freedom of election in the House of Commons, since by his penetration and spirit he saved the constitution of his country by the overthrow of Mr. Fox's famous India bill, in the year 1783.

The signifying that his Majesty's assent would not be given to this monstrous bill, pronounced by every independent character a death wound to the independence of the kingdom, and which was committed by the King to the Marquis of Buckingham, was said to have wholly originated in his advice. His lordship was on this occasion accused by opposition of "*secret, or undue influence*;" but the fact is, the whole nation highly applauded him for his noble and patriotic conduct, and clearly saw the distinction between a mean underhand working on the royal mind for the attaining some private view, and the open manly conduct of a nobleman endowed with a high sense of honor, and a real regard for the constitution, ap-

proaching his sovereign for the public good as a peer of the realm, and an hereditary counsellor of the state.

His lordship's illustrious birth and great family alliances must necessarily render his support an honor to any administration, but his lordship is not more to be valued on those considerations, than he is on account of his extensive knowledge and shining talents.

No one is better informed of the true principles of the constitution, or better enabled to preserve them undiminished for the benefit of posterity. His lordship always sensibly feels the subject, when it respects the rights and interests of his country, and never fails to deliver himself with the dignity of a nobleman, and the manners of a gentleman, at the same time that he is equally perspicuous and unaffected in his language.

Mr.

MR. ANSTRUTHER.

THIS gentleman is the son of Sir John Anstruther, Bart. descended from a respectable family of Scotland, and succeeded his father as member of Parliament for Craill, on his vacating his seat in 1782. In 1790 he was elected for Cockermouth, for which place he at present sits in the House of Commons.

Having entered himself a student of Lincoln's Inn, he was called in due course to the bar, and has been distinguished for as rapid a rise in his profession as any young man of his time, a circumstance the more honorable to him, as it may be fairly ascribed to those abilities that so conspicuously marked his career into public life.

His talents have been engaged in most of the great and popular causes heard for some years past at the bar of the Lords and Commons, and particularly in Westminster Hall on the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, in the conducting of which he was one of the managers appointed by the House of Commons, and greatly instrumental in bringing forward the more important articles on that very laborious and important business.

Mr. Anstruther's professional qualities pointing him out as a proper person for filling with credit to himself and

honor to the public, the higher distinctions of the law, he was on the 7th of February, 1793, made a king's counsel, and at the same time appointed a Welch judge for Merioneth, Carnarvon, and Anglesea, in North Wales, and in 1794 he succeeded Mr. Erskine as attorney-general to the Prince of Wales.

In such high estimation are his talents held by administration, that he was employed on the late conspiracies in Scotland, as counsel on the part of the crown on the trial of Watts and Downie for high treason, the whole proceedings of which he is said to have arranged with great ability and skill.

He is also standing counsel to the board of East India controul.

In his parliamentary conduct, this gentleman generally voted with opposition till the year 1794, when he connected himself with administration, at the same time that Lord Loughborough was appointed to the seals.

His eloquence has been happily exercised on a variety of occasions, but never more ably than in proving, that the trial of Mr. Hastings did not abate with the dissolution of Parliament. He has also supported, on the true principles of the constitution, and every ground of policy and reason, the associations formed for the security of the public peace, and all those measures since adopted in Parliament for that purpose. He has likewise shewn himself to be well informed of the laws of Scotland, and of the constitution

constitution of the courts of justice in that kingdom, and has with great success opposed their being altered, as attempted by Mr. Adam, and other modern reformers.

In the adjustment of the Prince of Wales's affairs, this gentleman bore a very distinguished part, and was so high in the confidence of the Prince on the occasion, as to be honored with his message to the Commons, in which his Royal Highness "was desirous to acquiesce in whatever might be the sentiments of the House, both with respect to the future regulation of his expenditure, and the appropriation of any part of the income they might think fit to grant him, for the discharge of his debts."

Mr. Anstruther possesses much political information and legal knowledge. His delivery is fluent, distinct, and animated, his memory extremely retentive, and his arguments always well grounded and ably supported.

EARL

EARL FITZWILLIAM.

THIS nobleman enjoys the hereditary titles of Earl Fitzwilliam, Viscount Milton, Lord Fitzwilliam, and Baron Milton, in England. He also possesses the titles of Earl Fitzwilliam, Viscount Milton, and Baron Fitzwilliam of Lifford, in Ireland.

He was born May the 30th, 1748, and came to his present titles and estates on the decease of his father the late Earl, August 9, 1756. At the age of twenty-one he married Charlotte Ponsonby, youngest daughter of William, earl of Besborough, in Ireland. By this marriage he has a son, nine years old, and a daughter one year younger.

Being the nephew of the late Marquis of Rockingham, his political principles were early formed congenial to that associated body, distinguished by the name of the Rockingham party.

In all the memorable proceedings of it he particularly signalized himself by his zeal, firmness, and dignified principles.

When governor of Nova Scotia, his utmost efforts were used to extend the freedom and comforts of the inhabitants of that cheerless province.

In

In his parliamentary history he moved several resolutions opposing the armament that was raised against Russia in 1792, and appears to have taken a very active part on a variety of occasions against the measures of government. Indeed nothing can more strongly mark the high opinion that opposition had of him, than his being appointed president of the East India commissioners under Mr. Fox's famous India bill.

On the Duke of Portland's coming into office in 1794, his lordship connected himself with administration, and filled the office of lord president of the council, which he soon resigned for the lord lieutenancy of Ireland, a place he was induced to accept from the very high confidence he had in ministry, though his continuance in Dublin was but for a few months, owing to a misunderstanding between the cabinet and his lordship, respecting the admission of Roman Catholics into the Irish House of Commons, and to certain other privileges hitherto unenjoyed by those people, the ministers of the crown not meaning that any relief should be granted to them on his lordship's arrival in Ireland, and the noble Earl having before he set out for that kingdom made up his mind to begin granting them the relief they asked as soon as he commenced his vice-royship, but which being interrupted in, his lordship thought proper to resign.

In private life his lordship possesses the most amiable manners, and unbounded benevolence. Nor is he wanting in many requisites to form a good speaker. His information

formation is very extensive, and though he labours under an impediment in his speech, the importance of his matter, the seeming candor of his conduct, and great weight of his character, never fail to *impress*, though they may not *convince*, or to command *respect*, however his political sentiments may fail to meet the *concurrence* of the House.

LORD

LORD HOOD.

SAMUEL Hood, Lord Hood, Baron of Catherington, and a baronet, was married to Miss Lindzee of Portsmouth, by whom he has a son and heir, born in 1754.

His lordship was created a baronet in 1758, and in September 1783 was made a peer of Ireland. The father of his lordship, who is brother to Lord Bridport, was bred to the church, and was many years vicar of Burleigh, in Somersetshire, and afterwards of Thorncombe in Devon.

In 1784, his lordship was elected with Mr. Fox one of the representatives in Parliament for the city of Westminster, after one of the most spirited polls ever known. The numbers of the electors on this occasion were as follows:

Lord Hood	-	-	6694
Mr. Fox	-	-	6234
Sir Cecil Wray	-	-	5998

Amongst other honors, the ironmongers company on the 28th of December, 1783, presented him with the freedom of the company, and elegantly entertained him at their hall, with all the captains of the British fleet engaged with Count de Grasse.

In

In 1788, his lordship vacated his seat on being appointed one of the lords of the admiralty, but was again chosen in 1790 for Westminster, which he at present represents.

His lordship quitted the admiralty board the year following, and in 1790 again resumed his seat, which he left on the resignation of Earl Chatham.

His lordship's abilities as a naval commander are too well known to receive any additional lustre from the aid of panegyric. In the last war, when Great Britain, without a single friend or ally, was openly attacked by the most powerful maritime states in Europe, the British fleet under the command of Rodney and Hood triumphed over every opposition. At that critical period, so perilous to this country, when the safety of our West India islands filled the public mind with the most fearful apprehensions, the victorious exertions of Lord Hood powerfully contributed to turn the current of misfortune, and revived the almost expiring hope of the nation.

By a train of successes scarcely to be paralleled by any former examples, he defeated and destroyed the fleet of the enemy, and had the peculiar honor to swell the triumph of the British flag by the capture of the French Admiral, the celebrated Count de Grasse.

Lord Hood, as a naval officer, is equally distinguished for skill, courage, and humanity. Assisted by the first, he plans and executes with judgment; supported by the second, he braves danger and overpowers resistance; and
by

by the amiable exercise of the last, he has even conciliated the esteem of *captive* enemies. It has always been his good fortune to be a particular favorite with our brave sailors, for though he is regular in observing every kind of necessary discipline, yet he has been so kindly attentive to their various concerns, that they have, on all occasions, been forward to follow, where he has been appointed to lead.

The memorable victory of the 12th of April, 1782, is safely deposited in the naval records of Great Britain, that day so eventful and auspicious to this country has crowned him with unfading laurels, and will insure to his name the respect and gratitude of future ages.

But in no instance will his lordship's professional services be found to redound more to his honor, than in that afforded by his important and successful exertions in the Mediterranean, where he commanded the British fleets in the year 1793. On the 16th of July, he blocked up the port of Toulon, which surrendering on the 28th of the same month to the British admiral, Lord Hood took possession both of the town and shipping in the name of Louis XVII. It was again put into the hands of the French on the 19th of December following, and evacuated by his lordship, whose skill and humanity on the occasion is well known to the public.

This was soon afterwards followed by a more signal and memorable service, when his lordship, after a series of the most brilliant successes, made himself entire master of

Corfica, which kingdom was, in consequence thereof, on the 21st of June, 1794, united to the crown of Great Britain.

His lordship has on several occasions received the thanks of Parliament, and particularly for his judicious and gallant conduct in the Mediterranean, and the capture of Corfica, for which the thanks of the Houses of Lords and Commons were unanimously voted him in the most handsome and grateful terms.

Lord Hood having been bred to the study of naval tactics, and having spent a great part of his life in the active defence of his country, has had but little leisure to cultivate the art of public speaking, yet he nevertheless delivers his sentiments with ease and correctness. Indeed there is an unembarrassed freedom in his manner not always to be found in gentlemen of the same profession.

His lordship in April 1794, was made an admiral of the blue, and as a mark of the royal approbation of his long and important services, on the 24th of March last, the dignity of an English baroness was conferred on Lady Hood.

In his political conduct his lordship's sentiments have always been congenial with those of Mr. Pitt, with whom he has uniformly voted on all great questions, except in the repeal of the shop tax, in favor of which his lordship took an active part, a circumstance which leads us to believe

believe his lordship to act from the thorough conviction of his own mind; in the support of administration, since, when he has thought himself called upon to differ from them in opinion, he has felt himself under no restraint on account of his natural attachment to government.

THIS respectable character is of an ancient and opulent family of Cheshire. As a peer he was sent to the university of Cambridge, where he received his education with Mr. Pitt, after which he was entered a student of the law, and admitted to the bar.

The first appearance of this gentleman in his professional line, was as a counsel before the committee of the House of Commons under Mr. Grenville's bill for abolishing on controverted elections, in which he discovered much knowledge and firmness of remark.

In 1782 he received the honor of knighthood, and was made his Majesty's solicitor-general, and in 1784 he was appointed attorney-general in the room of Lord Kenyon, and also chief justice of Cheshire. And in 1788 he succeeded to his parent's situation as master of the rolls.

He was first elected into Parliament in 1782 for Aldborough, in Yorkshire, and afterwards in 1790 for Hastings, and at present represents the city of Bath.

Vol. II. L Sir

SIR PEPPER ARDEN.

THIS respectable character is of an ancient and opulent family of Cheshire. At a proper age he was sent to the university of Cambridge, where he received his education with Mr. Pitt, after which, he was entered a student of the law, and admitted to the bar.

The first appearance of this gentleman in his professional line, was as a counsel before the committees of the House of Commons under Mr. Grenville's bill for deciding on controverted elections, in which he discovered much knowledge and shrewdness of remark.

In 1782 he received the honor of knighthood, and was made his Majesty's solicitor-general, and in 1784 he was appointed attorney-general in the room of Lloyd Kenyon, Esq. and also chief justice of Chester. And in 1788 he succeeded to his present situation as master of the rolls.

He was first elected into Parliament in 1784, for Aldborough, in Yorkshire, and afterwards in 1790, for Hastings, but at present represents the city of Bath, for which he was chosen the 25th of November, 1794, upon Viscount Bayham's seat becoming vacant, on the death of his father the Earl of Camden.

In point of judgment and integrity, we believe no judge ever came before him. Whatever the case may be, the ends of justice are all he has in view, nor are his private virtues as a father, husband, master, and friend, less honorable to him.

He has all along ranged under the ministerial standard, and has been uniformly consistent in his support of government, unless an exception may be made to it in his contending, that the impeachment of Mr. Hastings ended with the dissolution of Parliament. He has also differed from Mr. Pitt respecting a parliamentary reform, having always opposed it in the most strenuous manner. As to his political sentiments, however, no one can charge him with whim, versatility, or tergiversation. In discharging his public duties he never errs by mistake, nor blunders by accident. He has digested his principles too well to violate on any occasion the political unities.

There have been few questions of any consequence on which he has not exercised his talents. He moved the address to the King on the 25th of May, 1792, on the royal proclamation for suppressing all seditious writings and meetings, and has given his countenance and support to all the great national proceedings that have of late so honorably characterized the history of Parliament.

As a speaker he is equally ready and spirited, and is never in want of wit, and sarcasm, when necessary to repel or reprove his opponent. His support of government, arising from the purest motives, is at once able and

respectable, and must always be rendered valuable by those qualities that secure him the esteem of all who have the happiness of his acquaintance.

He is married to the daughter of the late Wilbraham Bootle, Esq. of Chester, and many years member for that city.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF TITCHFIELD.

THIS very promising and highly distinguished young nobleman is the son of the Duke of Portland, and was born the 24th of June, 1768.

His lordship was chosen one of the representatives in Parliament for the county of Bucks, on the creation of Lord Grenville in 1790, for which place he at present sits with Sir John Aubrey, Bart.

Since his obtaining a seat in the House of Commons he has taken a very active part in the debates, and fully vindicated his noble relation, the Duke of Portland, from the charge so improperly brought forward by a noble earl in a recent publication, and other modern reformers, of his having formerly concurred with them in their innovating principles, the fact being, that the noble Duke *never did agree to any plan whatever of parliamentary reform.*

On the King's proclamation for suppressing seditious meetings and writings, his lordship gave it his hearty support, upon the ground that it was never improper in the House to declare its determination to maintain the tranquillity of the kingdom, and he has since stood forward in a very able and manly manner in support of the various

measures adopted for preserving the constitution of his country from the attacks of foreign enemies, and the traitorous designs of domestic foes.

As a still farther means of being enabled to do this, and serve his Majesty and the public, his lordship has been appointed lord lieutenant of the county of Middlesex, a situation at all times of high trust and confidence, but especially so at this period, when it is become particularly necessary that there should be a person not only of high birth, rank, and abilities, but of true constitutional principles, as the head conservator of the peace for the most wealthy province in the world.

His lordship, who possesses a handsome person, and graceful deportment, may be considered very considerably above a degree of mediocrity as an orator. His language, like his manners, is easy and elegant, while his well-informed mind, and active turn, will always render him a very valuable acquisition to any cause he may honor with his support.

He was married the 4th of August, 1795, to Miss Scott, daughter of the late General Scott, whose splendid fortune, as well as superior accomplishments, are well known to the world.

ALDERMAN

ALDERMAN ANDERSON.

ON Mr. Brook Watson's vacating his seat in 1793, upon his going out as commissary-general to the British forces on the continent, this gentleman was elected into Parliament as one of the representatives of the city of London,

He is a Russian Merchant of the most respectable connections, a director of the Royal Exchange fire office, and in many other respects of the first consequence in the city, being also one of its aldermen, to which office he was elected for the ward of Aldersgate in the year 1789.

He is in his political conduct avowedly on the side of government, and for the time he has sat in the House of Commons, few members have taken a more active part in public business.

On the 30th of March, 1793, he moved for leave to bring in a bill for the more effectual prevention of frauds by merchants and bankers clerks, and for making the same felony.

On this occasion he observed, that, as commerce was the great security of this country, it was requisite, in order

to protect it more effectually, that the law should shew greater severity to such bankers and merchants clerks, as might embezzle their masters property, than had hitherto been shewn; while a menial servant of such gentlemen could be tried for his life, for stealing forty shillings, their clerks might defraud them of eight or ten thousand pounds, with no other remedy for them than a civil action. This excessive lenity was lately seen to have been productive of the most serious consequences, and therefore every principle of theoretical as well as experimental justice, loudly called for an amendment.

He re-stated the insufficiency of the present penal laws; and said, that he had already consulted the first legal authorities upon the matter.

On the subject of the bill for new-modelling, or rather providing and establishing a militia suitable to the first metropolis of the British empire, he said, that many attempts had been made to impose on the understandings of the citizens of London; but they would not swallow the poison however palatable the dose was made up; the majority of the citizens were decidedly in favour of the bill. He observed, that Mr. Sheridan had said the members for London were not present on the preceding Friday, Mr. Anderson said he was in the House at a quarter of an hour after four o'clock, and he begged leave to say he attended the House, he believed, as frequently as any member did, *and he trusted that none of these reflections would be thrown out again.*

We

We have thought it necessary to mention this, not only as strongly marking the worthy alderman's attention to the duties of his situation, but as well to shew that he is not wanting in a laudable degree of spirit to notice, in a proper manner, any impertinence of remark from any one, however high he may rank on the side of opposition, or think himself thereby warranted in taking any liberty in which he may chuse to indulge.

His conduct on the occasional loss of our merchantmen has been extremely liberal towards administration. He admitted there had been many losses at sea on our part, but thought they arose from the rashness of individuals, who frequently sailed without waiting for a proper convoy. He justified the opinion of the citizens of London in favor of a war in preference to a mean or dishonourable peace as petitioned for at an irregular and heterogeneous meeting at Guildhall of what opposition had the effrontery to stile the liverymen of London; and to shew his readiness, at all times, to the interest of his constituents, on the 3d of March, 1794, he presented a petition from the wine merchants of the city of London, against a regulation in the bill for imposing an additional duty on wines, and praying that the new duty should not commence but from the 23d of February, as it was never usual for any new duty to be laid on any article, until such time as the bill empowering it had received the royal assent.

As a speaker he has already given sufficient proofs of his capacity for joining in debate, as well as of his
being

being a man of business, and fully capable of discharging with credit to himself, and honor to the citizens of London, the important trust they have so judiciously reposed in him.

MARQUIS

MARQUIS OF ABERCORNE.

HIS lordship, John James Hamilton, succeeded his uncle, who was Earl of Abercorne in Scotland, and Viscount Hamilton in England, and died unmarried the 8th of October, 1789. He was created an English viscount the 24th of August, 1786, till which time he sat in the English House of Lords, as a peer of Scotland. And on the 2d of October, 1790, the present Marquis of Abercorne was raised to that dignity. He is also Viscount Strabone in Ireland.

He was first elected a member of the House of Commons for Eastlooe, in Cornwall, in 1780, and afterwards for Saint Germain in 1784, which he continued to represent till he was called to the House of Lords.

Few members have ever more distinguished themselves than his lordship in the British senate. In the Commons he was much in the habit of speaking, and went at great length, and with acknowledged ability, into all the more important questions agitated during his time, in which he afforded many instances of the independence of his character, and the regard he possesses for the true principles of the constitution.

His

His history is equally interesting in the Lords, where he has given the most honorable support to government. On the royal proclamation for suppressing seditious meetings and writings, he moved the address to his Majesty in the most loyal and spirited terms, and at the same time with a dignity and force of expression equal to the importance of the subject; "at a moment when there were
" emissaries abroad for the purpose of making the people
" unhappy and discontented, he deemed it the duty of
" every one to come forward, and declare what they felt,
" and the principles by which they were actuated."

In the last session his lordship took an opportunity of expressing himself very fully and explicitly on the present war. "He was ready, he said, to avow that the present
" war in which we were engaged, was a war for our safety,
" property, liberties, and lives. When he had called to his
" mind our real situation with respect to France, an infer-
" nal war, a war with the infernal beings was compara-
" tively preferable. But no degree of provocation, he said,
" would, or should lead him beyond the bounds of a sys-
" tem of moderation and true policy. He did not doubt
" the bravery of British troops, their valor was too well
" established to be called in question; but he did not see
" why they should be made principals every where? Why
" they should be sacrificed to the intrigues of other pow-
" ers. These continental dreams were but delusion!
" We were possessed, he said, of resources; but we
" should husband them, and not profusely squander the
" blood and treasure of the country to the caprice and
" crooked policy of continental connections. He was
" for

" for withdrawing our troops from the continent, and
" acting only by sea, or on such occasions as our assistance
" could be decidedly useful to our allies."

His lordship has long been considered as an elegant and accomplished speaker. He possesses a well-informed mind, a spirited mode of expressing himself, and a great keenness of observation and remark. No one ever has more the appearance of delivering the genuine sentiments of his heart. In the course of his speech the hearer is from his manner all along strongly impressed with the independence of his character. He never fails to meet the question fully and fairly, and to speak without ambiguity or reserve.

His lordship was married in 1792, to Lady Cecill Hamilton.

RIGHT

RIGHT HON. SIR GILBERT ELLIOT, Bart.

THIS gentleman's father, the late Sir Gilbert Elliot, Bart. successively held several places under government, and was many years treasurer of the navy, having filled that respectable and lucrative situation from the year 1770 to the time of his death, which happened in 1777, and was highly respected for his virtues and abilities.

The present Sir Gilbert Elliot, who was brought up in the profession of the law, and admitted to the bar, was first elected to a seat in parliament for Roxburghshire in Scotland, on the death of his father, who had represented it for many years, and in 1784 was returned for Berwick. He is, at present, one of the members for Helston, for which place he was chosen in the year 1790.

His study of politics commenced at a very early period, and few members, at his age, have ever discovered so enlightened a mind, and such strength of understanding.

In 1787 he took a very decided and popular part against the delinquency of oriental characters, and charged Sir Elijah Impey, who went to India as lord chief justice of

of the supreme court in 1779, with high crimes and misdemeanors, the principal of which were,

The condemnation of Nuncomar,

The illegal extension of jurisdiction in the Dewannee,

His conduct at Patna,

His general mal-administration of justice,

His conduct in making affidavits.

Nuncomar, a person of great wealth and consequence at Calcutta, had been condemned to public execution by an unknown law, and by illegal evidence, in the supreme court of judicature, where Sir Elijah Impey presided, and had suffered accordingly.

In bringing forward the charges grounded on the foregoing heads of accusation, Sir Gilbert Elliot spoke at great length with such wonderful ability, and depicted the transactions alluded to with such force of colouring, as to meet the highest encomiums from the House.

On the 4th of February, 1788, Sir Elijah Impey made a most elaborate defence at the bar of the Commons, which he began at half past four, and ended at a quarter after eight o'clock.

On the death of Mr. Cornwall, in 1789, his great knowledge of the rules and orders of the House, and natural fitness for business, pointed Sir Gilbert Elliot out as

a proper person for the high office of Speaker, though the choice fell on the present Lord Grenville.

On his being created a peer soon afterwards, Sir Gilbert Elliot was again proposed with Mr. Addington, who at present presides in the chair.

Sir Gilbert Elliot was nominated by Mr. Ellis, father of the House, who was seconded by Mr. Frederick Montagu, a gentleman long known for his inflexible integrity and extensive parliamentary knowledge. On this occasion Mr. Fox paid Sir Gilbert Elliot the highest compliments, and said the abilities and integrity of the worthy baronet were well known to every one, and that he had long revered and always should admire and esteem them.

On the 28th of December, 1793, in speaking in support of the alien bill, brought in by Mr. Dundas, Sir Gilbert Elliot took occasion to lament, that a right honorable friend, Mr. Fox, with whom he had so many years acted, should, in his late parliamentary speeches, have departed entirely from those principles which actuated a noble personage, the Duke of Portland, and the rest of those friends who had long enjoyed with him an union of sentiments. The duty he owed his country was, however, paramount, he said, to all other considerations, and he must, therefore, declare, *that the parliamentary conduct of Mr. Fox had not only been such as he could not in honor and conscience support, but it was, in his mind, totally and diametrically opposite to the interest and safety of the country.*

He

He concluded by declaring, that seeing an absolute necessity to give every support to the government, he was determined zealously to co-operate, in his public and in his private capacity, with his Majesty's ministers in their exertions to defend the constitution, and to save the country from the evident attacks meditated against it.

Accordingly on Lord Hood's possessing himself of Toulon, he was appointed one of the commissioners, with his lordship and Governor O'Hara, on the part of Great Britain, previous to which he was made one of his Majesty's privy council, and on the union of Corsica with the crown of Great Britain, he was appointed his Majesty's vice-roy of that kingdom, in which high situation he at present presides.

As a speaker, no one expresses himself with more ease, complacency of manners, or elegance of language.

He concluded by declaring that feeling an absolute necessity to give every support to the government, he was determined zealously to co-operate in his public and in his private capacity with his Majesty's ministers in their exertions to save the

EARL OF CARLISLE.

THIS much respected and highly accomplished nobleman is also Viscount Morpeth, and Baron Dacres, and succeeded his father in the year 1758. His lordship was born the 28th of May, 1748, and on the 22d of March, 1770, was married to Carolina, daughter of the Marquis of Stafford, by whom he has issue George, Viscount Morpeth, born September 17, 1773.

His lordship has filled many high and important offices under government, and was recommended by his abilities and address, on the dispute breaking out between Great Britain and America, for the situation of one of his Majesty's commissioners to that country, for the purpose of adjusting all subsisting differences with the parent state.

In 1777 he was made treasurer of the royal household. In 1779 he was chosen first lord of the board of trade, which he resigned in 1781, and went to Ireland as his Majesty's vice-roy. In 1782 he succeeded Lord Talbot as lord steward of his Majesty's household, which he quitted in favor of the Duke of Rutland, and in 1783 he was appointed lord privy seal, which he resigned the following year.

His

His lordship, who had been for some time one of the leading members in opposition, in 1794, in conjunction with Lord Loughborough and other great and distinguished characters, connected himself with administration, whose measures have since had all the support, naturally to be expected from his political knowledge, and readiness as a speaker.

Nor has his lordship derived less credit in the exercise of his talents as a writer. On the resignation of Earl Fitzwilliam, he addressed two letters to Earl Carlisle, on the subject of his lord's lieutenancy of Ireland, and in particular, as to his readiness in granting the Roman Catholics the relief they required. In answer to this his lordship published a reply addressed to Earl Fitzwilliam, the following extract from which, will probably enable the public to see the matter in a proper point of view.

"A general belief," says Lord Carlisle, "prevailed that, in your final arrangements, and concluding conversation with his Majesty's ministers, previous to your going to Ireland, at which others assisted, it was settled, that no material measure, either as to persons or things, was to be decided upon, without further communication and concurrence with the cabinet of England."

"You are much mistaken," adds his lordship, "if you think that the world, endeavouring, with very inadequate means, to detect on which side the error of misapprehension lies, even supposing it should be suspected to be with you, has ever aimed any censure at your head,

"which made it necessary for you to appear at the tribunal of the public, and to open a defence, in my mind, unprovoked by accusation from any quarter, forcing you to advance upon such tender and delicate ground, to points generally not considered accessible."

His lordship is a strong and powerful advocate for the prosecution of the war, being of opinion "*that a negotiation with France would attract the contempt and abhorrence of every power in Europe.*"

His Lordship is a classical, correct, and elegant speaker, always delivering himself with a proper degree of spirit and animation, without ever being vehement or violent, and may be considered as one of the most able and respectable in the support of administration.

He at present holds no ostensible situation under government, but has lately had the honor of being invested with the most noble order of the garter.

EARL

EARL OF CAMDEN.

HIS lordship in 1794 succeeded his father, that great luminary of the law, and invaluable friend to the constitution, the late venerable Earl of Camden, whose doctrine on the law of libels, both in parliament and in the courts of Westminster-hall, will transmit his Lordship's name, with every degree of honor, to the latest posterity.

The present Earl of Camden was born in 1759, and was married the 31st of December, 1786, to Miss Moleworth, sole daughter and heiress of the late William Moleworth, Esq. and niece to Lady Lucan. His lordship's grandfather, who died in 1724, was chief justice of the King's Bench, 5 George I. His father was created an English earl in 1786, was lord chancellor from 1766 to 1770, and was president of the council at the time of his death, which happened in the 81st year of his age.

In 1780, the present Earl of Camden was elected a member for the city of Bath, which he continued to represent till called to the Upper House, and in 1782 he was appointed one of the lords of the admiralty.

His lordship succeeded his noble father as recorder of Bath, and is one of the tellers of the exchequer. And on the late resignation of Earl Fitzwilliam, his lordship was

appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, in which high situation his services are at present exerting equally to the honor of the sovereign, and the happiness of the sister kingdom.

In 1794 he had the honor of moving the address to the throne, when his lordship said, "that in speaking his own opinion, he trusted he spoke the sentiments of that House and the country, in wishing them to assure his Majesty of their firmest and steady support in carrying on the present just and necessary war; a war unprovoked on our part, and brought on by the repeated threats and attacks from France upon us and our allies; a war justified by the necessity of defending ourselves against that system of anarchy and confusion, which had ruined and desolated every description of civilized orders in that country, and threatened by its prevalence the destruction of every other nation in the world. In this opinion he thought himself justified by taking a review of the war from its commencement down to the present period, which, however untoward it might seem, from the disappointments and reverses which had taken place during the last campaign, was certainly the most improper juncture to think of making peace, because it would be humbling ourselves to offer to make peace with France, at a time when her arms had been successful, for it was not possible that a peace could be concluded with that country under such circumstances, as would be either honorable or safe for this.

"Another

" Another reason that weighed strongly with him, and
 " no doubt with the House, was, that notwithstanding
 " the temporary successes of France, there was a moral
 " impossibility that her resources could be equal to a con-
 " tinuance of those desperate efforts, by the effects of
 " which alone she had been able to carry on her opera-
 " tions as she had done."

In his parliamentary conduct his lordship has always
 been on the side of government, and has much distin-
 guished himself in the support of its measures, by the
 united influence of his high character, respectable talents,
 and constitutional principles.

JOHN DENT, Esq.

THIS gentleman, who is well known as a partner in one of the first banking houses in Europe, furnishes in his history, a most pleasing, as well as a striking instance, of the happy advancement in life, to be expected from the well-directed exercise of talents and integrity.

Considered in this point of view Mr. Dent stands highly distinguished, having by his abilities and conduct raised himself to an elevated situation in the zodiac of public fame, and acquired a degree of consequence, not only in the commercial, but political world, that must always reflect no little lustre on an individual.

At the general election in 1790, he was elected a representative in Parliament for the town of Lancaster, for which place he at present sits in the House of Commons.

Few persons have been more active as a British senator, during the period he has sustained that character, than which nothing can be more respectable, when supported with the independence he is known to possess. Interest, at least, has never been suspected of actuating his conduct,

duct, nor has he in voting with opposition on *some* occasions, been thought wanting in a due regard to the principles of the constitution.

Though not a first-rate orator, he is considerably above a degree of mediocrity, and may justly be pronounced a very useful member. He has frequently taken a part in the debates highly creditable to him as a statesman and legislator, and on some occasions has displayed much political knowledge. One particular *trait* in his character, no less honorable to him, than worthy the example of others, is, that liberality of sentiment which has uniformly distinguished his parliamentary conduct.

He ranks amongst those who have given their support to the war, and justified administration in their measures respecting it. But the most prominent feature in his history, is, the very able and active part he has taken in discovering the abuses committed in the department of the post-office, which will always be thought to well entitle him to the praise that the public have given him on the occasion. The very shameful and scandalous practices arising from partiality or prejudice, made use of in forwarding, or suppressing the circulation of Newspapers, so extremely interesting to private property, and so productive to the public revenue, has long called for redress, and there is no doubt, but that it will be properly corrected by the bill, which Mr. Dent has pledged himself to bring in during the next session, on the subject.

In

In short, in whatever light we view this gentleman, we cannot but consider him as having made a very rapid progress in his public career, and furnished the most promising earnest of his forming a true model of a free and independent member of Parliament.

Though not a first-rate orator, he has nevertheless acquired a degree of mediocrity, and may justly be pronounced a very useful member. He has frequently taken a part in the debates highly creditable to him as a statesman and legislator, and on some occasions has displayed much political knowledge. One particular way in his character, no less honorable to him, than worthy the example of others, is, that liberality of sentiment which has uniformly distinguished his parliamentary conduct.

He ranks amongst those who have given their support to the war, and justified administration in their measures. He is the most prominent figure in his history, is the very able and active part he has taken in discovering the abuses committed in the department of the post-office, which will always be thought to well entitle him to the praise that the public have given him on the occasion. The very thoughtful and judicious practices arising from partiality or prejudice, made use of in forwarding, or suppressing the circulation of Newspapers, to extremely interesting to private property, and so productive to the public revenue, has long called for redress, and there is no doubt, but that it will be properly corrected by the EARL who has pledged himself to bring in during the next session, on the subject.

EARL OF MOIRA.

THIS distinguished nobleman, who is the second Earl of Moira, is descended from Sir John Rawdon, of the kingdom of Ireland, who in 1717 married the second daughter of Sir Richard Levinge, Bart. speaker of the House of Commons, by whom he had issue, with other children, John, father of the present Earl, who was created Lord Rawdon of Moira, in the county of Downe, the 9th of April, 1750, and afterwards advanced on the 15th of December, 1761, to the dignity of Earl of Moira.

The noble Earl, whose character reflects so much honor on true nobility, commenced his career of public life with the most brilliant shew of future greatness. He imbibed an early ardor for military fame, and served in America during the war between that country and Great Britain.

His character on this occasion received great and deserved lustre. All who knew him, during the several campaigns, in which he took so active a part, speak of his lordship in the highest terms of panegyric. His bravery as a soldier was every way equalled by his philanthropy as a man. Where his duty led him there he cheerfully adventured, and when his private fortune could administer

administer to the wants of others, his purse is said to have been as open as his heart. His humane attention, indeed, has ever endeared him to the soldiers under his command, who, highly as they respect his authority, serve him still more faithfully from the love they bear him.

On his return to England his lordship became as much distinguished for his senatorial abilities, as he had been before for his conduct in the field. His abilities as a parliamentary speaker were universally acknowledged. Nor were their lordships wanting in the respect due to his talents and worth, while out of doors his lordship stood high in the estimation of the public.

As it is well known that all the nicer sensibilities of the heart form the great and leading characteristics of the noble lord, it is hardly necessary to say, that on whatever occasion he has come forward in the House of Lords, his object has ever been the good of mankind. The most striking proof of his benevolence is afforded by his long and unwearied exertions, in endeavouring to obtain an act of Parliament to relieve the really insolvent debtor, and rescue him from the horrors of perpetual imprisonment; an object which the legislature sanctioned the last session, to an extent never known before, through his lordship's generous interference.

His lordship has never held any place under government, unless from his military rank, and the great and important expedition he was sometime ago appointed to command, in favor of the French royalists, the forces

to be employed on which were however in general detained at Southampton and parts adjacent.

Last year his lordship served on the continent, where he had several opportunities of displaying his military talents, and of evincing his courage and bravery in the service of his country. He has since been honored with the command of another large body of troops, supposed to have been intended for the support of the French royalists.

On this subject the following explanation was given by the noble Earl in the House of Lords the 14th of February, 1794. "He had been sent for, his lordship said, by his Majesty's ministers on the 17th of October, and informed by them of the succours with which it was intended the royalists should be furnished. He did not hesitate to undertake the expedition proposed, nor that responsibility which he considered as attached to it. The appointment of some French officers in his army had been stated to be illegal, but the motives which governed his conduct on this occasion were these. He understood from very good authority, that the royalists, though in possession of great numbers of cannon, had no men capable of managing them; it therefore became an object with him to take as many artillery-men with him as he could get, to supply this deficiency; unfortunately, however, it happened, that the exertions made by the government here in other expeditions had so exhausted the country, that the artillery-men which were sent to him amounted to

I

"scarcely

"scarcely one seventh of the number he had requested.
 "Under these circumstances he suggested to ministers the
 "propriety of employing some French artillery officers
 "then on the continent in his army."

With respect to the military services of the noble Earl, Mr. Pitt observed in the House of Commons,
 "that the troops under Lord Moira, so far from being
 "useless, had been very active on the continent during
 "some part of the last campaign. They had, at different
 "times, supplied large reinforcements to the army
 "abroad, which had been replaced by fresh levies; and
 "to retain such a *depot* of force always at hand, and
 "under the conduct of so able a commander, was a circumstance of considerable importance and consequence
 "to the internal defence of the country."

His lordship as a public speaker stands eminently distinguished. His figure is remarkably handsome; his voice clear and distinct; his manner polite, impressive, and unembarrassed; his arguments open and candid, and his language strong and elegant. His ideas are quick and correct, his understanding sound and comprehensive, and his information extensive and accurate.

These, and the other qualities, which his lordship so eminently possesses, render him one of the most accomplished noblemen, at the same time that he is, perhaps, the most complete gentleman of the age.

EARL

EARL SPENCER.

HIS lordship is the second person that has enjoyed this title, in which, on the 31st of October, 1783, he succeeded his father, who was created Earl Spencer, and Viscount Althorpe by his present Majesty, the 1st of November, 1765.

He was married in 1781, to the daughter of Lord Lucan, of the kingdom of Ireland, and is brother-in-law to the Duke of Devonshire, and also to the Earl of Bessborough.

His lordship was chosen a member for Northampton in 1780, and commenced his political career on the side of opposition, and in the year 1782 was appointed one of the lords of the treasury, on the Marquis of Rockingham being placed at the head of administration.

On Mr. Pitt's succeeding to the reins of government he retired from office, and voted with opposition.

As a representative of the people in Parliament, no one had more credit given him for the purity of his principles, and the sincerity of his regard for the constitution of his country, or ever quitted his seat with a higher character, or qualities better suited to grace the peerage.

Holding

Holding it expedient for the preservation of government, that it should have every sanction and support, his lordship in 1794 thought proper to join his noble friend and relation, the Duke of Portland, in uniting their services with the present ministry, and to accept the office of lord privy seal.

His lordship very ably justified himself for having taken a part with administration. "He obeyed, he said, the call of his Majesty for the purpose of serving his country. He lamented that all those with whom he had acted in public affairs, did not join the standard of government at this alarming period, for he knew their abilities might be highly serviceable to the state. But if they should continue to refuse, he hoped the country would have energy to defend itself. For his part, *he should never desert what appeared to him to be its true interest.*"

His lordship was not long after entrusted by his Majesty with the negotiation of a very important concern with the Emperor of Germany, on which occasion he proceeded to the court of Vienna, where, after a residence of some months, his lordship concluded the treaty lately so much the subject of discussion in both Houses of Parliament.

On his return to England he exchanged his situation of lord privy seal, with the Earl of Chatham, for his present one of first lord of the admiralty, which high office he entered upon the 3d of March, 1795.

In

In answer to Lord Derby the last session, Earl Spencer admitted the extraordinary resources of the enemy, but inferred from that fact, "the necessity of our uniting our best endeavors against them. That they had made astonishing exertions in the course of the last campaign, he thought could not be denied, but it was only another reason for our further assiduity. They undoubtedly seemed averse, as much as possible, to peace; but our unanimity in carrying on the war was the likeliest means, in his mind, to produce a change in their opinion.

He had spoken what he thought now, and always thought on the subject, very honestly. It was a time, in his opinion, in which every man ought to speak out, and fairly avow his sentiments. He had only to assure their lordships, that nothing should be wanting on his part to render the English navy respectable. The country, he certainly thought, were in the possession of the means, and he would endeavour to do his duty in making the best use of them he could."

The vigilant manner in which the naval administration has been conducted since his lordship has been at the head of it, does him the highest honor, and is fully confirmed by the present respectable state of our navy, and its disposition for the honor and security of the British empire.

Since the noble Earl has presided, our convoys have safely reached their different destinations, without increasing the enemy's lists of prizes, and their convoys have

been chased, attacked, and taken under the very cannon of their land batteries. The port of Brest has, as it were been isolated from the ports of Brittany, Normandy, and Poitou, which provisioned its fleets; and the tri-coloured flag dares no longer dispute the empire of the sea with that of Great Britain.

His lordship is indefatigable in the duties of his office, and has lately returned from an excursion, made for the purpose of personally inspecting the different dock yards, and the naval armament intended for the West Indies, in order to establish our superiority in that quarter of the world.

As a speaker his lordship is more insinuating than animated. He delivers himself with great facility, and is perfectly unembarrassed, though his tone of voice is seldom loud enough to make him heard with ease. In his speeches he seems more desirous of establishing facts than displaying his eloquence, and of convincing by his arguments than dazzling by any extraneous flights of oratory. He holds the question closely in view, and is never loose or defultory.

COLONEL

COLONEL MACLEOD.

THIS gentleman who is a colonel in the East India Company's service, and lieutenant colonel of the 73d regiment of foot, served many years with great military reputation in Bengal, where he contracted habits of the greatest intimacy with Tippoo Saib, of his "*midnight hours*" with whom his entertaining narrative will long be remembered in his parliamentary history.

He was elected for Invernessshire in the year 1790, for which place he at present sits in the House of Commons.

In 1792 he strongly reprobated the armament against Russia as highly impolitic and unjust, and declared "that the conduct of administration *bad induced him to withdraw all confidence from them.* He considered ministers to be actuated by two principles; the first of which was the interfering in the affairs of other nations, and acting the part of a busy-body, and the second in keeping their places."

He has ever since taken an active part with opposition, and reprobated the war, and all the measures pursued in consequence of it. It was this conduct of the honorable gentleman and his friends that drew from the minister the following observation :

"Gentlemen, said he, attribute the supposed miscarriages of the war at one time to the difficulty of the war itself, and the impracticability of its objects; and at another, to the errors of ministers; but each of these charges annihilates the other; for it would be an impossibility at once to prove positive impracticability, and impute imbecility to the persons who attempted it; but these, he said, were of a piece with all the arguments on that side—a tissue of ingenuity, subtlety, false reasoning, and deception."

The colonel has seen a great deal of service, and certainly possesses much military knowledge, but the manner of his detailing it seldom fails of producing a very *ludicrous* effect.

EARL

to witness and meetings, and also the policy and necessity of the various correspondence bill as "absolutely expedient in a war like the present, unprecedented in its course." **EARL OF CARNARVON** "manner in which it was supported by them."

HENRY Herbert, Earl of Carnarvon, and Lord Portchester, was born the 20th of August, 1741, and married July 15, 1771, to the daughter of the Earl of Egremont. He was created Baron Portchester the 17th of October, 1780, and Earl of Carnarvon the 29th of June, 1793.

He was first elected into Parliament in 1768 for Wilton, in the room of his uncle, Nicholas Herbert, Esq. who was uncle to the Earl of Pembroke, and afterwards for East-Grinstead, for which place he continued till called to the Upper House.

During the time he sat in the Commons he took a very active part in the debates, and was much distinguished by his ready talent for speaking, and general acquaintance with the political and commercial concerns of his country.

His lordship, we believe, has never had any situation under government, or about the person of the King, except groom of the bed-chamber to his Majesty, and is at this time colonel of the Wiltshire militia.

He at present ranks amongst the more active and able supporters of government. His lordship defended the address on the king's proclamation for suppressing seditious

writings and meetings, and also the policy and necessity of the traitorous correspondence bill as "absolutely expedient" in a war like the present, unprecedented in its commencement by the French, and unprecedented in the manner in which it was supported by them."

His lordship's knowledge, experience, and abilities may be considered as reflecting no little honor on administration and their measures, to which he gives his entire approbation. He is well versed in every subject that can possibly come under discussion, is a ready and spirited speaker, and possesses a no inconsiderable claim on the respect and attention of the House.

EARL

EARL OF DARNLEY.

JOHNS Bligh, Earl and Viscount Darnley, Baron Clifton of Rathmore, and Baron Clifton of Leighton Bromf-wold, in England, was born the 30th of June, 1767, and succeeded his father John, the late Earl, July 31, 1781.

Thomas Bligh was one of the privy council to Queen Anne, in which honorable post he died the 28th of August, 1710. He married Elizabeth, sister to Brigadier James Napier, and by her had John, created a baron 1721, a viscount 1723, and an earl in 1725, as above mentioned.

He died September the 12th, 1728, having married in 1713 the daughter of the Earl of Clarendon, by Catherine, Baroness of Clifton, and by her, who died 1722, left issue three sons and three daughters, of which was Edward, who succeeded to the English barony of Clifton, and John the late lord.

Edward, the eldest son, took his seat in the House of Peers, February the 1st, 1787, as Lord Clifton, died in August 1747 unmarried, and was succeeded by his brother

John, the late Earl, who was born October the 1st, 1719, and September the 11th, 1766, married the daughter and heir of John Hoyle, Esq. of Westmeath, by whom he had issue, John, the present earl.

In his parliamentary conduct his lordship ranks amongst the supporters of Government. On the address of the House promising his Majesty the aid required, for the augmentation of his naval and military forces, on the 1st of February, 1793, his lordship declared, "that the few votes he had had the honor of giving in that House, had hitherto been in opposition to ministers; a conviction, however, of the propriety of their present measures induced him to say, that they had his entire approbation, and should have all the support he could render them."

On the motion made by the Duke of Bedford last session in favor of peace, his lordship very ably supported the amendment proposed, and shrewdly observed, "that he could set aside, and overturn all the arguments urged in favor of the original motion, by asking two questions, to neither of which he believed any answer could be given. These questions were—first, *with whom shall we treat?* And if that was answered in the affirmative, the next was—*will they treat with you?* His lordship did not believe a direct answer could be given to either of those questions."

His

His lordship has fully entered into a general support of the measures of administration, and excited much attention by the very promising talents that he has displayed on the occasion.

MAURICE ROBINSON, Esq.

THIS gentleman was elected in 1790 one of the representatives for Boroughbridge, in Yorkshire.

In his parliamentary conduct he is distinguished as one of the inferior planets in the great orb of opposition, and seems like Mr. Blinckin, to direct his attacks principally against the naval operations of administration, which in his opinion are in every respect absurd, impolitic, and inadequate, and ill calculated to produce the effect intended, or indeed to save of any good purpose whatever.

His speeches are generally designed to show the bad construction of our ships, their inferiority in point of sailing compared with those of the enemy, the bad methods used for manning our fleets, and the neglect of our trade, continually exposed to the enemy for want of the necessary convoys.

In answer to this, it was last session answered by Mr. Pitt, "that at no period whatever was so efficient a protection extended to the trade and commerce of the country as at present. The circumstances spoken of by certain gentlemen in opposition, be said, might arise from causes which could not be attributed to government; as the various delays on account of the ships not

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“ not being ready, the different opinions of the several
“ merchants as to the strength of the convoy, proper
“ places of rendezvous, time of sailing, their various
“ views and interests, and the unforeseen and irresistible
“ accidents of wind and weather. All these should be
“ fairly weighed and considered.”

This gentleman, last session, said, he thought the mi-
“ nister had too much success with the majority of Parlia-
“ ment, and that he stood in need of a good deal of the
“ *correction of adversity*,” a no small portion of which,
there is no doubt, he would long since have experienced,
had he listened to opposition, and departed from the sys-
tem he has pursued.

Mr.

DUKE OF BEDFORD.

HIS Grace, who is also Marquis of Tavistock, Earl of Bedford, Baron Ruffel of Cheney, Thornhaugh, and Howland of Streatham, was born the 11th of August, 1765, and succeeded his grandfather, the late Duke, who died the 14th of January, 1771, his father the Marquis of Tavistock, born September 26, 1739, being unfortunately killed by a fall from his horse the 22d of March, 1767.

His Grace has never held any situation under government, and has of late taken a rather active part against the measures of administration, and particularly against any farther prosecution of the war, for the termination of which he last session brought forward a motion in the House of Lords.

It is, however, to be observed that his Grace, in a very able reply in summing up the various arguments against his motion, candidly remarked, "that he had not offered to degrade the country by urging ministers to sue for peace, *His object was merely to put matters in a negotiable state.*"

Opposition reckon very highly on the acquisition of his Grace in taking part with them in reprobating the conduct

conduct of government; but in this he seems to be regulated by great candor and moderation, and only desires ministry to make peace, when it can be done consistent with the honor and interest of the country.

As a speaker he certainly possesses many qualifications of a superior nature. He has a logical mind, and never tires by dwelling too long in his arguments, in which he is equally neat and pointed.

Having completed his education at the university, he went to make the accustomed tour on the continent, where he was for some time with Mr. Whitbread, and other young men of fashion, and had the good fortune to cultivate an acquaintance with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, who had just landed on account of the Duke's indisposition.

Mr. Grey was appointed to a place in the Royal High-ness's household, and by this situation and his own accomplishments, he was admitted to all the first foreign and his of rank and distinction.

He arrived in England in the time Lord Alington Grey preceded to the time of Louisa, and was elected in his stead, in the year 1784, as one of the representatives for Northumberland.

Mr.

The great question of the commercial treaty being then under the serious discussion of Parliament, he declared his

MR. GREY.

THIS gentleman is the eldest son of Sir Charles Grey, and received his first scholastic rudiments at Eton. From Eton he was sent to complete his education at Cambridge, where he made the most rapid progress in his studies.

Having completed his education at the university, he went to make the accustomed tour on the continent, where he was for some time with Mr. Whitbread, and other young men of fashion, and had the good fortune to cultivate an acquaintance with the Duke and Dukes of Cumberland, who had left England on account of the Duke's indisposition.

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He arrived in England just at the time Lord Algernon Percy succeeded to the title of Lovaine, and was elected in his stead, in the year 1784, as one of the representatives for Northumberland.

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sen-

sentiments against the *principle*, as well as the *construction* of the bill. His speech on this occasion was received with the greatest approbation by all parties.

Being admitted a member of the Whig Club, his talents, spirit, and zeal, for obtaining a reform in Parliament, rendered him one of the most popular members of that society. It was here that he particularly exerted himself in forming the society of the Friends of the People.

He is said to possess a generous mind, and a most benevolent heart, but there are two things in his parliamentary history which certainly militate against the admission of this. The one is, his reporting, some years ago, to the House, as chairman of the committee appointed to inquire into the subject, "*that according to the present existing law, any person arrested for a debt he could not pay was liable to be imprisoned for life,*" and never following it up with any resolution to effect the relief required. The other is, his conduct last session on the establishment of the Prince of Wales, who has often looked on this gentleman and his friends as if he had said,

" Methinks I could deal kingdoms to my mind,

" And ne'er be weary !"

As a speaker, Mr. Grey has every requisite an elegant mind and a classical education can bestow, and is anxious to distinguish himself on topics most essential to the interests of the nation.

His

His opposition to the war is of the most marked and pointed nature, and in the course of last session he brought forward, with the whole influence of his character and abilities, several motions in favor of peace, being of opinion, that this country might treat with the present rulers of France, though in condemning the commercial treaty, on the 21st of February, 1787, he said, "he liked not an alliance of any kind with France—a country from which Great Britain ought not to expect any sincere friendship to her. Every apparent offer of service from France to England ought to be suspected. She was our natural enemy, and ever would remain so."

He farther said, "that he trusted we should no longer be so blind to every thing which we had read, to every thing which we had seen, to every thing which we had felt of *French perfidy*; to all which experience, derived from the history of past times, taught us, as to imagine, that the French could have any other object in view, than this only one, to which their constant and invariable policy had always been directed, *the aggrandizement of their own country on the humiliation of this.*"

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